



DUCHESS of KINGSTON.

AUTHENTIC PARTICULARS

OF THE

LIFE

OF THE LATE

DUCHESS OF KINGSTON,

DURING HER

CONNECTION WITH THE DUKE,

HER RESIDENCE AT

DRESDEN, VIENNA, St. PETERSBURGH, PARIS,

And Several other Courts of Europe;

ALSO,

A FAITHFUL COPY OF HER SINGULAR WILL.

LONDON:

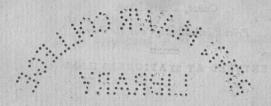
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PREFATORY OBSERVATIONS

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THE demise of the DUCHESS OF KINGSTON being authenticated in England, the public prints contained various anecdotes respecting that lady, which were either wholly conjectural, or partially untrue. Observing this, the Author of the following DETAIL transmitted to the press some particulars, which he knew to be facts; intending them only as contributing, for a time, to diurnal amusement. He was solicited, however, to collect, and print them, in a different form; with a continuation, and such anecdotes as he could

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could furnish from authenticity. The publication, in this shape, is now submitted to the world—The time necessary to obtain, and bring from Paris, an attested copy of the WILL of the Duchess, is humbly offered as an apology; and its being so truly an original, will, it is hoped, abundantly atone for the procrastination.

With respect to this edition it is necessary to observe, that the additions are very considerable; they are furnished by those who knew her well. It was thought most consistent with the plan of the first part to continue it undisturbed, and give these additions as a Supplement, in which state the reader will find them at the end of this volume, execpt a few notes.

AN

AUTHENTIC DETAIL,

&c. &c. &c.

As the deaths of those who have eminently figured on the stage of Being, always occasion posthumous animadversion, the demise of so extraordinary a character as the late Duchess of Kingston will, there is not a doubt, give rise to a variety of details respecting her life and conduct. This is an age when the prying eye of curiosity penetrates the privacy of every distinguished person; neither the living nor the dead escape. The most trivial pursuits of the one, and the former table-talk of

the other, are exposed and narrated, with all the pomp of importance, by some officious hand, engaged to furnish anecdote for the world. The author of the subsequent account professeth a departure from the customary mode of detailing puerilities of thought, expression, or habit. Such puerilities are but too prevalent, even where intellectual greatness most abounds; and it surely is becoming the office of candour to veil, rather than exemplify, the weaknesses of our nature.

ELIZABETH CHUDLEIGH was well defcended, from an ancient family, in Devonshire. One of her male ancestors
had a naval command in the reign of
Queen Elizabeth, and gallantly acquitted
himself in the memorable defeat of the
Spanish Armada. She was born in the
year 1720, and her father was a Colonel
in the army, and had a post in Chelsea
college; but, dying when she was at an
early age, his relict had the care of a
daughter devolved on her, with little more
than the usual pension allotted the widow

of an officer, for their mutual fublistence. Thus narrowed in fortune, Mrs. Chudleigh prudently availed herfelf of the best subflitute for money-good connections. Thefe the rank, fituation, and habits of her hufband, had placed within her power. She hired an house fit, at that less refined period of time, for a fashionable town residence; and she accommodated an inmate, for the purpose of adding to the scantiness of her income. Her daughter ELIZABETH was foon distinguished for a brilliancy of repartee, and for other qualities highly recommendatory, because extremely pleasing. An opportunity for the display of them, to every advantage the possessor could reafonably defire, offered at a moment when fortune was benignantly disposed. The father of our prefent Sovereign had his court at Leicester House. Mr. Pulteney, who then blazed as a meteor in the hemisphere of opposition, was honoured with the particular regard of the Prince of Wales. Miss CHUDLEIGH was introduced to Mr. PULTE-NEY; and he obtained for her, at the age of

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about

about eighteen, the appointment of a Maid of Honour to the Princess of Wales. Mr. Pulteney did more than thus place her in an elevated station; he endeavoured to cultivate her understanding. To him Miss Chupleigh read; and with him, when feparated by distance, corresponded. Some improvement she obtained by this advantage, but the extreme vivacity of her nature prevented any considerable acquirements. Her maxim, on every fubject, was, according to her own expression, to be "fhort, clear, and furprifing." A voluminous author was, confequently, her aversion; and a prolix story, however interesting, disgusted her, merely from the circumstance of prolixity. With fuch a pupil, Mr. PULTENEY could laugh, and in despair of his literary instruction making any deep impression on the mind of his adopted fair one, he changed the scene, and endeavoured to initiate her in the science of œconomy, instead of books. The value of a penny he had studied to a nicety; one of his practical theorems was,

that a man with the price of a pot of porter in his pocket, should purchase only a pint, however extreme his thirst. This was the GREAT WILLIAM PULTENEY, who, like other patriots, without principle, degenerated into a Peer, without honour, and died without the vestige of regard for his memory being found in any breast that existed at the time of his departure.

The flation to which Miss Chupleigh was advanced, combined with many perfonal attractions, produced a number of admirers; some of actual, others of expectant titles. Among the former, was his Grace the Duke of Hamilton, whom Miss Gunning had afterwards the good fortune to obtain for a confort. The Duke was paffionately fond of Miss Chupleigh, and the ardour with which he pressed his suit, attained the end he then wished to accomplish, which was, a solemn engagement on the part of Miss Chudleigh, that on his return from making a tour, for which he was preparing, she would become his wife. There were reasons why this event should

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not immediately take place; that the engagement would be fulfilled at the specified time, both parties confidered as a moral certainty. A mutual pledge was given and accepted; the Duke commenced his proposed tour, and the parting condition was, that he should write by every opportunity. Miss Chupleigh, of course, was reciprocally bounden to answer his Grace's Ovidian epiftles. Thus the arrangement of fortune feemed to have united a pair who possibly might have experienced much happiness in the union; for between the Duke of Hamilton and Miss Chudleigh, there was a fimilarity of disposition. They were not however to be joined. Distrust was to take place of unbounded confidence; and they were mutually to be diffatisfied with each other, without either being culpable. Miss Chudleigh had an aunt whole name was Hanmer; at her house Captain Hervey, the late Earl of Briftol, visited. To this gentleman Mrs. Hanmer became fo exceedingly partial, that the favoured his views on her niece, and engaged her efforts

to effect, if possible, a matrimonial connection. There were two difficulties which would have been infurmountable, if not opposed by the fertile genius of a female. Mifs Chudleigh difliked Captain Hervey, and the was betrothed to the Duke of Hamilton. To render the last nugatory, the letters of his Grace were intercepted by Mrs. Hanmer, and his supposed silence giving offence to her niece, she worked fo fuccefsfully on her pride, as to induce her to abandon all thoughts of the lover whose passion she had cherished with delight. A conduct the reverse of that imputed to the Duke, was observed by Captain Hervey. He was all which affiduity could dictate, or attention perform. He had daily access to Miss Chudleigh, and each interview was artfully improved by the aunt, to the promotion of her own views. The letters of his Grace of Hamilton, which regularly arrived, were as regularly fuppreffed; until piqued beyond longer endurance, Miss Chudleigh was prevailed on to accept the hand of Captain Hervey,

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and by a private marriage, to ensure a participation of his future honours and fortune. The ceremony was performed in a private chapel adjoining the country mansion of Mr. Merrill. The only surviving witness is a woman considerably advanced in years, who was a servant in the family*.

On a review of life, every reflecting mind may eafily trace the predominant good, or evil experienced, to fome wilful error, or injudicious mistake, which operated as a determinate cause, and gave the colour to our fate. This was the case with Miss Chudleigh; for, the hour in which she be-

^{*} This marriage was folemnized in the year 1744, at Lainston, in the county of Southampton; a parish in which there was only the house of Mr. Merrill. The certificate runs as follows:

[&]quot; Marriages, Births, and Burials in the parish of Lainston. 2d of August, Mrs. Susanna Merril,

[&]quot; relict of John Merrill, Esq. buried. 4th of August, 1744, married the Honourable Augustus

[&]quot;Hervey, Esq. in the parish of Lainston, to Miss

[&]quot; Elizabeth Chudleigh, daughter of Colonel Thomas

[&]quot; Chudleigh, late of Chelsea College, deceased. By

[&]quot; me, Thomas Arnis."

came united with Captain Hervey, proved to her the origin of every subsequent unhappiness. There is a compliment to the dead, exacted by usage; conformably to which we treat their names with reverence. whose deeds deferve the severest reproach. On this principle it can only be faid, that the connubial rites were attended with confequences, injurious to health, as well as unproductive of fecundity; and that, from the night following the day on which the marriage was folemnized, Mifs Chudleigh refolved never to have farther connection with her husband. To prevail on him not to claim her as his wife, required all the art of which she was mistress. The best diffualive argument was, the Iofs of her fituation as Maid of Honour, should the Marriage be publicly known. The finances of Captain Hervey not enabling him, at the time to compenfate fuch a lofs, most probably operated as a prudential motive for his yielding to the intreaties of his wife. He did fo yield; but in a manner which, at times, indicated a

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ftrong defire to play the tyrant. In fact, as the departed Duchess frequently expressed the fituation of her feelings, "Her mifery " commenced from the arrival of Captain "Hervey in England, and the greatest joy " fhe experienced was the intelligence of his " departure." Hence, whilst the ship in which he was to fail, remained at Spithead, or in the Downs, she was tremblingly alive with apprehension that the destination might be countermanded. A fair wind out of the Channel, was the foother of her mind; and she was always extremely inquisitive as to the duration of the voyage, or cruize; as well as the probable intervening accidents which might still longer protract it. Such were some of the immediate consequences of an union, broughtabout by artifice, effected clandestinely, and originating, in the one party, from pique, in the other, from a more reprehensible passion. The remote consequences of this most unfortunate affimilation of body, not mind, will necessarily appear in the subsequent detail. Let it be hoped, for the happiness

of the more amiable fex, that the cafe of Miss Chudleigh, in one sense, is not applicable to many of them. To her, matrimony was the beginning of forrows.

Mis Chupleigh, now Mrs. Hervey. a maid in appearance, a wife in difguife, feemed to those who judge from externals only, to be in an enviable fituation. Of the higher circles she was the attractive centre, of gayer life the invigorating spirit. Her royal miftress not only smiled on, but actually approved her. A few friendships fhe cemented, and conquests she made in fuch abundance, that, like Cæfar in a triumph, fhe had a train of captives at her heels. Yet, with all this display of happinefs, she wanted that without which there is not happiness on earth—peace of mind. Her husband, quieted for a time, grew obstreperous, as she became more the object of admiration. He felt his right, and was determined to affert, it. She endeavoured, by letter, to negociate him into peace; but her efforts fucceeded not. He demanded a private interview; and enforcing his de-

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mands

mands by threats of exposure in case of refusal, she complied through compulsion. The meeting was at the apartment of Captain Hervey; a black fervant only in the house. On entering the room where he fat, the first thing done was to prevent her retreat, by locking the door. What paffed may be better imagined than expressed. The bosom of a wife burning with indignant rage for past injuries sustained in her health, yet obliged to fmother the flame of refentment, and assume the mildness of complacency. On the other hand, an hufband, feeling himself the Lord Paramount over a defenceless woman, whose hopes he had blafted, whose person he had defiled. This, as the Duchefs, when speaking of it. with tears in her eyes, used to fay was " an affignation with a vengeance." It ended like every interview which she had with Captain Hervey, fatally for her. He would not permit her to retire without confenting to that commerce, delectable only when kindred fouls melt into each other with the foft embrace. The fruit of this meeting

was, the addition of a boy to the human race. Cæsar Hawkins became the professional confidant on this occasion. Miss Chudleigh removed to Chelsea for a change of air, and returned to Leicesterhouse, perfectly recovered from her indisposition. The infant soon sunk into the arms of Death, leaving only the tale of his existence to be related *.

While

* The following is the evidence which Cafar Hawkins gave, on the Trial of the Duchess of Kingston, relative to the birth of the child, and the marriage of Miss Chudleigh with Mr. Harvey.

Question. Do you, or do you not, know that a child was the fruit of that marriage?

Cæsar Hawkins. Yes, I do.

Question. Can you tell their Lordships about what time the child was born, and where?

Answer. About the time I cannot tell.

Question. Inform their Lordships about what time this might be?

Answer. I should suppose about thirty years ago.

Question. Where was this child born?

Answer. At Chelsea, near to Chelsea College.

Question. Was this marriage (with Mr. Hervey) and the birth of that child, at that time kept a secret?

Answer. I was told so.

Question;

While these and a variety of other circumstances were passing between Miss Chudleigh and her hufband, the Duke of Hamilton arrived from his travels. He loft not a moment in paying homage to the idol of his affections, and in having the mystery of all his letters being unanfwered, explained. Flighty, as in other respects he was, to Miss Chudleigh his constancy remained unshaken. The interview developed the whole, and placed Mrs. Hanmer in her true light, that of the authoress of mischief. But, as the palliation of past evil, the Duke made a generous tender of his hand, where his heart was already centered. The rejection of this offer, which it was impossible to accept, and almost as impossible to explain the reafon why it was rejected, occasioned emotions in the Duke, which the heart can feel better than the pen explain. Still more; Miss Chudleigh was compelled to prohibit

Question. Do you know what is fince become of that child?

Answer. I believe it died a little time afterwards.

his visits. The fequel of his conduct is known. His Grace and a noble Earl agreed to club their follies, to keep each other in countenance, and they both married two Hibernian Misses, who, in the hour of good fortune, had luckily brought their stock in trade to a market, where beauty frequently setches an excellent price.

The Duke of Hamilton, thus refused by Mifs Chudleigh; the late Duke of Ancafter, and feveral other nobles experienced a similar fate. This aftonished the fashionable world, and the mother of Miss Chudleigh, who was a total stranger to the private marriage of her daughter, reprehended her folly in proper terms. At once to be freed, at least for a time, from the embarrafiments which environed her, Miss Chudleigh determined on travel as the mean. She embarked for the Continent; chose the circle of Germany for her tour. She refided fome time at Berlin, then went to Dresden; and as she aspired to the acquaintance of crowned heads, the was gratified by the late King of Prussia, who not only converfed, country,

versed, but corresponded with her. It is not by this meant that there was any thing more in his letters than what the politeness of a gentleman dictated to a lady, in spirit and enterprize above the level of her fex. The epiftles of Frederic, which confifted of about four lines, written in a scarcely legible hand, ferved Miss Chudleigh to gratify her vanity by talking about. But in the Electress of Saxony she found a friend, whose affection for her continued to the latest period of life. The Electress was a woman of fense, honour, virtue and religion. Her letters were replete with kindness. While her hand distributed presents to Miss Chudleigh out of the treasury of abundance, her heart was interested for her happiness. This she evinced, pending the profecution for bigamy, for at that time a letter from the Electress to the Duchess, contained the following passage:-" You " have long experienced my love; my re-" venue, my protection; my every thing "you may command. Come, then, my " dear life, to an afylum of peace. Quit a 2 " country,

country, where, if you are bequeathed

a cloak, some pretender may start up, and

" ruin you by law to prove it your property.

"Let me have you at Dresden." This passage is literally rendered from the French.

Miss Chudleigh returning from the Continent, Lord Howe, who fignalized himfelf in America the war before last, became her fuitor. Matrimony was out of the queftion; but an intimacy fubfifting, the world then talked, as the world now talks, a great deal of nonfense in a most absurd style. This garrulity, however, neither leffened the consequence of Miss Chudleigh, nor interrupted her amusements. She ran the career of pleafure, enlivened the court circles, each year became more ingratiated with the mistress whom she served; led fashions; played whift with Lord Chesterfield; rioted with Lady Harrington and Miss Ashe; figured at a masquerade, and laughed at the lover whom she chose not to favour with her fmiles, with all the confounding grace of a woman of quality. The reflection put off, however, for the day, too frequently

quently intruded an unwelcome vifitor at night. Captain Hervey, the husband, like a perturbed fpirit, was eternally croffing the path trodden by his wife. Was she in the rooms at Bath, he was fure to be there. At a rout, ridotto, or ball, there was this fell destroyer of peace, embittering every pleafure, and blighting the fruit of happiness by the pestilential malignancy of his presence. As a proof of his disposition to annoy, he menaced his wife with an intimation that he would disclose the marriage to the Princess of Wales. In this Miss Chudleigh anticipated him, by being the first relater of the circumstance. Her royal mistress heard and pitied her. She continued her patronage to the hour of her death. At last a stratagem was either suggested, or it occurred to Miss Chudleigh, at once to deprive Captain Hervey of the power to claim her as his wife. The clergyman who married them was dead. The register book was in careless hands. An handsome compliment was paid for the inspection, and, while the person in whose custody it was, liftened

listened to an amusing story, Miss Chudleigh tore out a part of the register. Thus imagining the business accomplished, she, for a time, bid defiance to her husband, whose taste for the softer sex, yielding to a passion of an opposite nature, occasioned Miss Chudleigh a cessation of inquietude. Her better sate influenced the heart of a man in her savour, who was the exemplar of amiability. This was the late Duke of Kingston.

The life, an outline of which is now fubmitting to the public judgment, was of fuch a fingular commixture of propenfities, as to afford abundant matter for improving reflection. That there is in the human breaft a ruling passion, by which the will is influenced, and confequently the judgment finally determined, must be evident to every inquisitive mind. This passion it is, which, ferving as the spring of action, gives rife to a conduct perfectly regular, or wholly eccentric, as the producing cause is more or less bounded by some higher motive. Hence the necessity there is for some superinduced 25/8/5/197

induced principle, as a check to the ruling passion, whatever it be. Where this is wanting, all is confusion; errors engender substantial ills, and that portion of our existence contracted within the narrow span of time, is doomed to unhappiness.

The fubject of these anecdotes was among the too many eminent instances of this. Settled principles she had none. Not that her deficiency arose so much from viciousness, as from ignorance. Her mind, to borrow Mr. Locke's figure, was a mere tabula rafa, a blank as to every thing beyond mortality. All with her centered in felf and fenfation. Her ruling passion was displayed in the acquirement of any species of property, the possession of which gratified vanity. This fhe hoarded with the gripe of a mifer, or diffipated with the profusion of a spendthrift, when flattered by knavery or artifice into a mood of extravagance. The diamonds she had amaffed were her travelling companions; and she was always ready to defend them, with a brace of piftols, at the hazard of her life. To her jewel box her orifons

were as regularly paid, as a devotee is found constant to her matins. She latterly slumbered over abundance, nor was she ever awake to that glorious feeling which actuates natures truly noble, and teaches them to confider a fuperflux of wealth as the donation of heaven, granted in trust for the relief of indigence, the foothing of calamity, or the reward of merit. That the late Duchess of Kingston had early in life the power of being the diffributor of much good, is certain; to obtain the means was her principal object, to neglect the end, her general habit. Her cunning, for of wisdom fhe possessed not a ray, was folely directed to gain. Fortunately for fociety, cunning is more frequently defeated than fuccessful. This was was fo remarkably experienced by: our heroine, that a relation of the cafe may ferve as a moral lesson to the world - Thus, then, runs the flory:

In the natural course of events, Captain Hervey succeeded to the Earldom of Bristol. With rank there was fortune, and both were most inviting objects to a mind sordid

and vain. When a fuccession to the family honours and revenue became highly probable, a short period before it took place. Miss Chudleigh went to the house of Mr. Merril, in whose chapel she was married. Her oftenfible reason was a jaunt out of town-Her real defign was to procure, if possible, the infertion of her marriage, with Captain Hervey in the book which, to destroy the written evidence of that marriage, she had formerly mutilated. With this view fhe condescended to every artifice, and dealt out promifes with a liberal hand. The officiating clerk, who like Scrub in the play, was a person of various avocations, was to be promoted to the extent of his wishes. The book was managed by the Lady to her content, and she returned to London fecretly exulting in the excellence and fuccess of her machination. She did, it is true, fucceed, but it was in laying the ground-work of that very evidence, which, in conjunction with oral testimony, operated afterwards to her conviction and difgrace. Here was cunning, despicable cunning,

cunning, enveloping the poffessor in a net of her own fabricating. No wonder when her hour of degradation arrived, that she fell unpitied.

Thus conditioned was Miss Chudleigh. when the DUKE of KINGTSON became her admirer. Re-married, as it were, by her own stratagem, the participation of ducal honours became legally impossible. The chains of wedlock, which the lady had been fo industrious in shaking off, or putting on, as feemed most promotive of her avarice, were now galling to an excefs. Every advice was taken, without the means of liberation being in the power of human device to fuggest. To acquiesce in that which could not be remedied, feemed the dernier refort. The DUKE of KINGSTON'S attachment was ardent, and truly fincere. He mingled the friend with the lover; nor was there an endearing title under Heaven he would not have affumed, could but the affumption have advanced the happiness of Miss Chudleigh. For a series of years. they cohabited, yet with fuch observance

of external decorum, that although their intimacy was a moral, it was not an evidenced certainty. That the felicity of the Duke was in any means promoted by this union, cannot be afferted confiseent with truth. The parties were diametrically opposite characters. The Duke was mild. gracious, unassuming, and bashful in the He had every grace requiextreme. fite in a man of rank. Oftentation he fo much detefted, that it was his cuftom, in perambulating the streets, to fold back the front of his coat, so as to hide the star; and whenever by accident it was discovered, the disclosure caused an involuntary blush. His Lady possessed very different qualities. In vociferating anger she could fairly boast an alliance with Juno. Oftentatious she was to an excess, and so little sublimed were her feelings, that the groffest flattery was an animating cordial to her spirits. It revived her when more rational fuccours failed of effect. Thus contrarily gifted and disposed, the Duke and Miss Chudleigh were frequently on discordant terms; but she had a ftrong

strong hold of his mind, and the use she made of it was, finally to ruin herfelf. The Earl of Briftol, by time and attachments. had grown fo weary of his connubial state, as to be cordially defirous of a change. At first, when founded on the subject of a divorce, he had used this expression, "I will " fee the -- at the devil, before her va-" nity shall be gratified by being a Duchess." Afterwards, however, there being a lady to whom he wished to offer his hand, he so altered his tone, as to express a readiness to confent to any possible means of annihilating the union subfifting between him and Miss Chudleigh. The civilians were confulted - a jactitation fuit was instituted. The evidence who could prove the marriage was kept back.

Lord Briftol failing, as it was defigned he fhould fail, in fubftantiating the marriage, a fentence of the court, pronouncing the nullity of the claim, concluded the bufiness. The object now to be obtained was, legal opinion as to the operative power of fuch a fentence; and the civilians, highly

tenacious of the rights of their own courts, adjudged the decree not liable to be difturbed by the interference of any extrinsic court of judicature. Under conviction of perfect fafety, the marriage between his Grace of Kingston, and Miss Chudleigh, was publicly solemnized *. The favours

The marriage ceremony was performed on the 8th day of March, 1769, in the church of Saint Margaret, Westminster. The following is a copy of the register:

" No. 92. Marriages in March, 1769. The Most

- " Noble Evelyn Pierrepont, Duke of Kingston, a Ba-
- " chelor, and the Honourable Elizabeth Chudleigh, of
- " Knightsbridge, in Saint Margaret's, Westminster,
- " a Spinster, were married by special licence of the
- " Archbishop of Canterbury, this 8th of March,
- " 1769, by me, Samuel Harper, of the British Mu-
 - " This marriage was folemnized between us,
 - "KINGSTON.
 - " ELIZABETH CHUDLEIGH.
- To In the presence of
 - " MASHAM, "J. ROSS MACKYE,
 - " WILLIAM YEO, "E.R. A. LAROCHE,
 - " A. K. F. GILBERT, "ARTHUR COLLIER,
 - " J. LAROCHE, Jun. "C. MASHAM."
 - " ALICE YEO,

were

were worn by the highest personages in the kingdom *; and, during the life of the Duke, not any attempt was made to difpute the legality of the procedure. The fortune was not entailed; his Grace had, therefore, the option to bequeath it as feemed best to his inclination. The heirs fince, were then expectants; their claims refted on hope, not certainty. The Duchefs, for so she is now to be styled, figured without apprehension of control. She was raised to the pinnacle of her fate, and for a very few years did she enjoy that which the chicanery of her life had been directed to accomplish, the parade of title without that honour which only can ennoble. To impede her in the career of enjoyment, and finally put an end to all her greatness, the DUKE of KINGSTON died. His will, excluding from every benefit an elder, and preferring a younger nephew as his heir in tail, gave rife to a profecution of the

^{*} Their present Majesties wore favours on the occafion.

Duchefs, which ended in the beggary of her profecutor, and the exile of herfelf.

The demise of the DUKE of KINGSTON was not unexpected by those who observe the feveral premonitions of the King of Terrors. A paralytic stroke is among the harbingers of mortal diffolution, which is fure to be followed by the event announced. The Duke lingered but a short time, and that time was employed by his confort in journeying his Grace about, under the futile idea, by change of air and fituation, of retarding the irreversible decree of Omnipotence. At last, when real danger seemed to threaten, even in the opinion of the Duchess, she dispatched one of her swiftestfooted meffengers to her folicitor, the late Mr. Field, of the Temple, requiring his immediate attendance. He obeyed the fummons, and arriving at the house, the Duchess privately imparted her wishes, which were, that he would procure the Duke to execute, and be himfelf a fubscribing witness, to a will, made without his knowledge, and more to the tafte of the Duchess, Duchess, than the one completed. The difference between these two wills was this: The Duke had bequeathed the income of his estates to his relict, during her life, and expressly under condition of her continuing in a flate of widowhood. Whether his Grace, in thus reftraining her, did it in order to prevent the dishonour of his memory, by the introduction of an improper fucceffor; or, whether he acted from a consciousness of her extreme liability, with all her manœuvring, to be imposed on, must be left to conjecture. Perfectly fatisfied, however, as the Duchess pretended to be with whatever appeared to be the inclination of her dearest Lord, she could not resist the feeming opportunity of carrying her fecret wishes into effect. She did not relish the Temple of Hymen being thut against her. Earnestly, therefore, did she press Mr. Field to have her own will immediately executed, which left her at perfect liberty to give her hand to the conqueror of her heart. She was only, by fome years, on the wrong fide of fifty; and the celebrated

Ninon

Ninon de l'Enclos bloomed at threescore, and captivated at feventy. Here was an example which every amorous grandmother might have in view; and extremely cruel would it be to restrict ladies, ancient only in years, from matrimony, as the mean to keep their blood within the bounds of decorum. The Duchess, in her anxiety to have the restraint shaken off, had nearly deprived herself of every benefit derivable from the demife of the Duke. When Mr. Field was introduced to his Grace, his intellects were perceptibly affected. He knew the friends who approached him, and a transient knowledge of their persons was the only indication of mental exertion which feemed to be left him. Field very properly remonstrated on the impropriety of introducing a will, for execution, to a man in fuch a state. His remonstrance occasioned a fevere reprehension from the Duchess, who reminded him, that he ought only to obey the instructions of his employer. Feeling, however, for his professional character, he positively refused either to tender the SOUND TO will.

will, or be in any manner concerned in endeavouring to procure the execution. With this refusal, he quitted the house, the Duchess beholding him with an indignant eye, as the annoyer of her scheme, when, in fact, by not complying with it, he proved her temporal Saviour: for, had the will she proposed, been executed, it would most indubitably have been set aside. The heirs would, consequently, have excluded the relict from every thing, except that to which the right of dower entitled her; and, the lady in this, as in other respects, would have been ruined by her own stratagem.

Soon after the frustration of this attempt, the DUKE of KINGSTON yielded to the stroke of fate. His will divulged, the funeral rites performed, and all other obsequial matters being properly adjusted, the Duchess embarked for the Continent, proposing Rome for her temporary residence. Ganganelli at that time filled the Papal See. From the moderation of his principles, the consequent tolerant spirit which he, on every occasion, displayed, and the C4 marked

marked attention he bestowed on the English, he acquired the title of the Protestant Pope. To fuch a character, the Duchess was a welcome vifitor. Ganganelli treated her with the utmost civility, gave her, as a Sovereign Prince, many privileges, and she was lodged in the palace of one of the Car-Her vanity thus gratified, her Grace, in return, treated the Romans with a public spectacle. She had built an elegant pleafure yacht; a gentleman, who had ferved in the navy, was the commander; under her orders, he failed for Italy, and the veffel, at confiderable trouble and fome expence, was conveyed up the Tiber. The fight of an English yacht there was uncommon. It drew the people in crowds to the shore, and the applause ran general through the city. This feemed to be the æra of festivity and happiness; but while the bark floated triumphantly on the undulations of the Tiber, a business was transacting in England which put an end to all momentary blifs. Mrs. CRADOCK, a woman now living, who, in the capacity of a domestic,

TEMPORE PROPERTY.

domestic, had been present during the ceremony of marriage between Miss Chun-LEIGH and LORD BRISTOL, found herfelf. fo reduced in circumstances, that she applied to Mr. FIELD for pecuniary relief. He faw her, and most injudiciously refused her every fuccour. In vain fhe urged her diffress, and the absence of the Duchess, who was the only person on whose munificence she had the justest claim. FIELD was deaf to her entreaties: she then told him what was in her power to discover. To many circumstances which she related, he was an entire firanger, and he affected to discredit the rest. Mrs. CRADOCK ended the interview with a menace, that she would make the relations of the DUKE of KING-STON acquainted with every important particular.-FIELD fet her at defrance, and, thus exposed to penury, she was exasperated to vengeance, and inftantly fet about the work of ruin.

His Grace of Kingston had borne to his grave, a marked diflike of one of his nephews. His private reason was well to known

known to his confidential friends. Mr. EVELYN MEADOWS had been in, and went out of, the Navy. Let it suffice to fay, that the Duke chose him not for his heir. He was one of the fons of LADY FRANCES PIERREPONT, fifter of the DUKE of KING-STON, confequently his nephew-but his Grace liked him not. The gentleman, excluded his prefumptive heirship, joyfully received the information that a method of doing himfelf fubstantial justice yet remained. He faw Mrs. CRADOCK-heard the detail of evidence which the offeredand, perfectly fatisfied as to every iota of the relation being true, he, affifted by legal friends, had a Bill of Indictment for Bigamy preferred against the supposed widow of the Duke of Kingston. The Bill was found *- Mr. FIELD had notice of the procedure,

^{*} The following is a Copy of the Bill of Indictment. Middlefex.

[&]quot;The Jurors of our Sovereign Lord the now King,
"present, that Elizabeth the wife of Augustus-John
"Hervey, late of the parish of Saint George, Hanover
"Square,

procedure, and the Duchess was properly advised to return instantly to England, and appear to the Indictment, to prevent an outlawry. The intelligence appeared like

a too-

" Square, in the county of Middlesex, Esquire, on " the eighth day of March, in the ninth year of the " reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, " now King of Great Britain, and fo forth, being " then married, and then the wife of the faid Augustus-" John Hervey, with force of arms, at the faid parish " of Saint George, Hanover Square, in the faid " county of Middlefex, feloniously did marry and take to husband, Evelyn Pierrepont, Duke of Kingse ston, (the faid Augustus-John Hervey, her former busband, being then alive) against the form of the " flatute in fuch case made and provided, and against " the peace of our faid Lord the King, his crown and es dignity; and the faid Jurors, for our faid Sove-" reign Lord the now King, upon their oath afore-66 faid, farther present, that the faid Elizabeth, heretofore, (to wit) on the fourth day of August, in the eighteenth year of the reign of our late Sovese reign Lord George the Second, late King of Great Britain, and so forth, at the parish of Lainston, in the county of Southampton, by the name of Elias zabeth Chudleigh, did marry the faid Au uftus-66 John Hervey, and him the faid Augustus-John Hera too-powerful electrical shock—her nature with difficulty sustained it. On recovering the little of her judgment which was left, she drove to the house of Mr. Jenkins, a

** vey then and there had for her husband. And that
** the said Elizabeth, being married, and the wise of
the said Augustus-John Herwey, afterwards, (to wit)

** on the eighth day of March, in the ninth year of
the reign of our said Sovereign Lord George the
the reign of our said Sovereign Lord George the
the reign of our said Sovereign Lord George the
the Third, now King of Great Britain, and so forth,
the with force and arms, in the said parish of Saint
the George, Hanover Square, in the said county of
the Middlesex, seloniously did marry, and take to huse
band, the said Evelyn Pierrepont, Duke of Kingthon, (the said Augustus-John Herwey, her former
thusband, being then alive) against the form of the
statute in such case made and provided, and against
the peace of our said Sovereign Lord the now King,
this crown and dignity.

"O. T.

" True Bill.

- 4. Augustine Greenland,
- " Ann Cradock,
- " Christopher Dixon,
 - " Thomas Dodd,
 - " Samuel Harper,
 - " John Fozart."

Savorn in the Court.

gentleman

gentleman who has acquired a large property by small means, commencing with the purchase of the little singer of a mutilated statue, and ending in what he now is, the banker to all the British travellers who visit the tutelary residence of Saint Peter.

To baffle art by art, and defeat, by policy, that which true wisdom could not oppose with a probability of success, is the custom of every hackneyed practitioner in the world. It is owing to their excellence in this fystem, that the fons of earth are fo much wifer, in their feveral generations, than the children of light. The Duchess of Kingston was merely a woman of cunning, trufting folely to her machinations for fuccess. Hence the barometer of her happiness rose, or was depressed, as her multifarious manœuvres produced what her chimerical fancy termed good or evil. The flightest check in the career of vanity; the least failure in the accomplishment of any vain-glorious project, occasioned a figh. What then must the prospect of being compelled to bid farewel to all her greatnefs,

ness, have effected ! Those least accustomed to reflect, are the most depressed by reflection. The attack made on the honours of the Duchess, flruck also at her principles and character. She knew, and she felt, that if the whole of her conduct should be bared to the light, a confummate degree of moral turpitude would appear. As to the marriage with his Grace of Kingston, the folemn opinions of the Civilians might be urged in extenuation; but those opinions were obtained by partial facts only appearing to them. The EARL of BRISTOL had boafted of a marriage. The Lady whom he had denominated his wife, put him to the proof of the marriage; and with perfect fafety she might do this, when she had taken previous care to prevent the only witness who could prove the fact, from giving testimony in the cause. Here was fraud; and, if Lord Briftol acquiefced in it, there was collusion. Another thing-There was certainly extreme turpitude in the fact of destroying the register of the marriage with the noble Earl, at one time; and there was the utmost fordidness in endeavouring to restore fomething like it, when likely to answer a selfish purpose. All these circumstances of evil-doing afforded miserable themes for reflection; and the period was now arrived, when reflection came with vengeance at her heels: but alternative there was none. An immediate return to England was the only measure to be adopted; and this the opponents of the Duchess had endeavoured to prevent, by a species of artful policy, exactly fuited to the Lady with whom they had to deal. MR. IENKINS was then a banker. The Duchess had placed fecurities in his hands, answerable for the sums she might occasionally require. He was perfectly fecure in any advance he might make; yet, apprized that the Duchefs would call on him for money to defray the expence of her journey to England, he avoided feeing her. On the first announcement of his not being at home, it was passed over as a mere unfortunate incident; but on the vifits being repeated, and the denials being as frequent, the conduct

was justly imputed to design. The scheme was to delay the return of the Duchess, so as that an outlawry might be obtained, which, in the eye of imagination, appeared the probable method of acquiring the effates of the late Duke. This was folly, because the will of his Grace, in his own hand writing, was fo guarded as not to be attacked with the remotest possibility of success. Such, however, was the idea; and from whatever prefumeable motive it originated, MR. JENKINS affuredly coincided with the plan. Aware of this, the Duchess was inceffant in her applications; and finding all her efforts to fee MR. JENKINS fail, the pocketed a brace of piftols, returned to his house, and receiving the usual answer that he was not at home, she fat on the steps of his door, and declared her determined resolution there to remain until he returned, were it for a week, month, or year. She knew that business would compel his return; and, finding it impracticable any longer to elude an interview, MR. IEN-KINS appeared. As the Duchess possessed that that bleffed gift of utterance, for which ladies of spirit are sometimes so eminently famous, it may be supposed, that the conversation with the banker was not of the mildest kind. Money was demanded, not asked. A little prevarication ensued; but the production of a pistol served as the most powerful mode of reasoning: the necessary was obtained, and the Duchess instantly quitted Rome.

We are now to behold the object of our fuccinct detail, in a light pitiable in the extreme. About to combat a profecution, the event of which, the monitor within must inform the culprit, would be fatal; a feries of reflections, and each accompanied by a censure, crowding on the mind, and putting the perturbed spirits on the rack of painful fensation; attended only by domestics, and wanting the consolation of a friend, each pace was a nearer approach to misery, and every hour only the anticipation of future woe. This was enough to overpower nature; nor will it be deemed furprifing, that, under fuch oppressive circumstances,

cumstances, the health of the Duchess should be violently attacked. Her journey was retarded before she reached the Alps. A fever feemed to feize on her vitals. From that she recovered, to the astonishment of her attendants. An abscess then formed in her fide, which rendering it impossible for her to endure the motion of a carriage, a kind of litter was provided, in which she gently travelled. In this fituation, nature was relieved by the breaking of the abfcess; and, after a tediously painful journey, the Duchess reached Calais. At that place she made a pause, and there it was that her apprehension got the better of her reason. In idea she was fettered, and incarcerated in the worst cell of the worst prison in London. She was totally ignorant of the bailable nature of her offence, and by confequence expected the utmost to be imagined. COLONEL WEST, a brother of the late Lord Delawar, whom the Duchess had known in England, became her principal affociate; but he was not lawyer fufficient to fatisfy her doubts.

By the means of former connections, and through a benevolence in his own nature, the EARL of MANSFIELD had a private interview with the Duchess. Without mentioning the place of meeting, fuffice it to observe, that this venerable Peer, who, having nearly finished his course, is now fubliming in spirit preparatory to the fruition of coelectial happiness, conducted himself in a manner, which did honour to his heart and character. Her spirits soothed, and her futile apprehensions removed by. the interview, the Duchess embarked for Dover, landed, drove post to Kingston House, and found friends displaying both zeal and alacrity in her cause.

The present DUKE of NEWCASTLE was steadily devoted to her welfare. The DUKES of ANCASTER and PORT-LAND testified their sincere good wishes *;

+ Lord BARRINGTON also preserved, to the last hour of her life, a truly sincere attachment for the Duchess. On her trial, he was called as an evidence, and the questions put to him, being intended to exLORD MOUNTSTUART shewed, in numerous instances, his kindness; and there were not wanting a circle of other distinguished personages, who, reprobating the prosecution as originating in mercenary and vindictive motives, conceived themselves to be justified in protecting, as far as in their power lay, the object persecuted. The first measure taken was to have the Duchess bailed. This was done before Lord Manssield, his Grace of Newcastle, Lord Mountstuart, Mr. GLOVER*, and other

tort what had passed in private conversation, his Lordship, with a great degree of sirmness, declined giving any answer. The Peers withdrew, and on returning, delivered it as their opinion, that the Noble Lord was bounden to answer the questions. He still, however, refused; and, to get rid of the business, the questions which had been proposed, were softened, and his surther testimony was dispensed with. The Duchess and Lord Barrington constantly corresponded.

* Philips Glower, E/q. a Lincolnshire gentleman, independent in fortune, and in soul. His word, given even on occasions the most trivial, is veracity itself. Professions he makes not; unless they are suggested by

other characters of rank attending. This disagreeable matter adjusted, the manner of adjusting it was such as to solace the mind, and prepared it for a greater encounter. It is in the constitution of sublunary things, that the endurance of evils is the lot of mortality; and it is in the benignant order of Heaven, that the worst evils should be endurable, by happening so progressively, as that our natures are tempered, by gradation, to the infelicity of their condition.

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the feelings of his heart. To duplicity his nature is fo greatly averse, that on the slightest appearance of it, his indignation is aroused; not meaning to trisse with others, he will not suffer the most exalted characters to trisse with him. Of this he gave a signal instance, when the late Marquis of Rockingham, being the Minister, betrayed an inclination to dispense with a promise he had given Mr. Glover, to place a lad in the Charter-house. The Marquis played the Courtier, forgetting the nature of the man with whom he had to deal. After several attempts to evade, Mr. Glover brought the matter to issue, by requesting a Peer to tell the Marquis, who was his friend, "That if he did not immediately perform his promise, he would full his skin over his ears, and that at a public meet-

The profecution, and confequent trial of the Duchefs, becoming objects of magnitude, the public curiofity and expectation were proportionably excited. The Duchess had, through life, diftinguished herself as a most eccentric character. Her turn of mind was original, and many of her actions were without a parallel. Even when she moved in the fphere of amusement, it was in a style peculiarly her own. If others invited admiration by a partial display of their charms, at a masquerade, she at once threw off the veil, and fet cenfure at defiance. Thus, at a midnight affembly, where Bacchus revelled, and the altars of Venus were encircled by the votaries of Love, the Duchess, then denominated Miss Chudleigh, appeared almost in the unadorned fimplicity of primitive nature. Whether to demonstrate how nearly she

⁴⁶ ing in his own county." This language foon fettled the matter; and the lad whom Mr. Glover had patronized, filled the vacancy at the Charter-house. Mr. Glover was an intimate friend of the Duke of Kingston.

was allied to her ancestress, Eve, before the fall; or, whether from a religious veneration of the customs which prevailed in Eden; whatever was her motive, certain it is, that she was every thing but naked *; and yet, like our first parents, she was not ashamed. Thus erratic in her nature, the dilemma into which she was thrown by the pending profecution, was fcarcely more than might be expected to happen to fuch a character. She had, in a manner, invited the diffrace, by neglecting the means of preventing it. Mrs. CRADOCK, the only existing evidence against her, had personally folicited a maintenance for the remaining years of her life. On a certain annual ftipend being fettled on her, she had voluntarily offered to retire to her native village, and never more intrude. This offer was rejected by the Duchess, who would only confent to allow her twenty pounds a year,

Of

This alludes to her appearance in the character of IPHIGENIA, at a Jubilee Ball, in the year 1744. An exact delineation of her drefs is given in the Frontispiece of this Detail.

on condition of her sequestering hersels in some place near the Peake of Derbyshire. This the Duchess considered as a most liberal offer; and, she expressed her association is should have had the assurance to call her, should have had the assurance to reject it. To her cost in purse, and to her agony in mind, it was rejected with the utmost scorn; and she who was resused a paltry pittance, except on condition of banishment for life, might afterwards have received thousands to abscond. The impulse of fear would produce what the feelings of humanity never could call forth.

From the moment in which the recognizances for the appearance of the Duchels were entered into, a scene of law disclosed itself. Books of cases were purchased in abundance, precedents were blotted with ink, the pages doubled down, and pins stuck in the several notes of reference. Instead of travelling like a Jew pedlar, with a diamond box at her back, Taylor's Elements of Civil Law, Coke's Institutes, some history of the Privileges of Peers to

be doubly married, or a volume of the State Trials, garnished the coach in which the Duchess drove from his Grace of Newcastle to Mr. Armstrong, the Sheriff's officer. By the gentlemen of the robe, as it may be naturally supposed, the Duchess was furrounded, and fo charitably were they disposed, that they gave her every consolation she could wish. The civilians were armed at all points to prove, that a fentence of their courts was an effectual bar to the admission of evidence. Like Fate, an ecclefiaftical decree was irrevocable. The common lawyers, on the other hand, fmiled, or affected to fmile, at the idea of a conviction. It was a mere phantom, conjured up in the hour of difmay, for the purpose of affrighting. Under these affurances, the Duchess was as quiet as the troublesome monitor in her bosom would give permission. When a gentle hint of possible danger was suggested by any of the difinterested few, the mercenary many infantly foothed all into peace. Reconciled, therefore, in some measure, to the encoun-

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ter, the repose of the Duchess was, on a sudden, interrupted by an adversary from a different quarter. This was no less celebrated a personage than the late Samuel FOOTE. The circumstance was as follows:

Mr. FOOTE, as a cotemporary, and mixing, as he did, in the first circles of fashion, was perfectly acquainted with the leading transactions of the Duches's life. Besides this, he had received much private information from fome person who had lived in the house with her. The fuspicion, at the time, fell on a Miss Penrose, a young lady who had experienced fo many gracious promifes from the Duchess, that she only found it necesfary to provide for herfelf until they were accomplished. Whoever furnished the intelligence, it certainly was of the most private kind, and, poffeffing it, FOOTE refolved to make fomething of what he thus knew. As, in the opinion of Mandeville, private vices are public benefits, fo FOOTE deemed the crimes and follies of individuals convertible into advantage

vantage by the amalgamy of wir. On this principle, he proceeded with the Duchess of Kingston. He had written a piece, entitled, " A Trip to Calais." The fcenes were humorous, the character of the Duchess was most admirably drawn, and the effect was accomplished; which was, that she should see, and be ashamed of, herself. The real design of Foote was, to obtain a confiderable fum of money from the Duchess, for suppressing the piece. With this view he contrived to have it communicated to her Grace, by an indifferent person, that the Haymarket theatre would open with the entertainment in which she was, as the phrase is, taken off to the life. This was intended to alarm, and it did effectually alarm her. She fent for Mr. Foote. He attended, with the piece in his pocket. She defired him to read a part of it. He obeyed; and proceeding in the character of LADY KITTY CROCODILE, his auditoress could no longer forbear. She arose, in a violent passion, and exclaimed, "This is fcandalous, Mr.

" FOOTE! D 2

se Foote! Why, what a wretch you have made me!" "You! (replied the humourift) " this is not defigned for your Grace; "it is not you!" After a few turns about the room, the Duchess calmed her turbulence, and assuming a smile, entreated it as a favour that Mr. Foote would leave the piece for her perusal, engaging at the same time to return it on the ensuing morning. He readily complied. The carriage was ordered, and he took his leave. Left thus to confider her own picture, fo much did her Grace diflike it, that she determined, if possible, to prevent the exposure of it to public view. As the artist had no objection to felling it, fhe inclined to be the purchafer. This was the next morning made known to Foote, who was questioned as to the fum which would fatisfy him for suppressing the piece. Proportioning his expectations to her power of gratifying them, he demanded Two THOUSAND POUNDS, and to be paid a certain fum, in compensation for a loss which, he pretended, would be fuftained by the scenes designed for the "TRIP to Calais," being appropriated to other uses. The enormity of this demand staggered the Duchess. By messages she intimated her extreme surprize, and a wish that the request were moderated within the boundary of reason. Imagining that she must at last comply, Foote would not abate one guinea. She offered him sourteen, then sixteen bundred pounds, and had actually a drast on Messrs. Drummond, for that sum, for his acceptance. This yielding, only induced Foote to think he should finally succeed, until by grasping at too much, he overstood his market, and lost every thing.

The demand made by FOOTE on the DUCHESS, might, at any time except the particular juncture in which it was urged, having passed among the other indifferent events of the hour, as wholly unmeriting the public notice. There are innumerable incidents which start up, like bubbles on the water, and are daily carried down the stream of time, without even exciting observation, much less interesting our atten-

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tion. Self, or what a man of worth confidereth as his other felf, a friend must be engaged, before we are stimulated to take an active part in any pending bufiness of whatever nature. It was thus in the cafe now relating. Those, long connected with the Duchefs, and in established habits of intimacy, felt the attack made on her, as directed by a ruffian hand, at a moment when she was, of all moments of her life, the least able to make any resistance. A bill of indictment had been found. At the hazard of her life had she journeyed from Rome to London, to abide the confequences of a most serious prosecution. During her absence, every method had been adopted by her opponents, to degrade her in the public opinion; and, now, that she had come fairly forward to meet her fate, it was no more than a common principle of equity that, pending the fuit against her, all should be quiescent. Every alien attack was criminal barbarity. To prejudice was to bias; and, the confequence of the Public, and of Judges, as component parts of that public,

public, being biaffed against a culprit, had been fatally experienced in a variety of instances. - There was another unanswerable plea in bar to any wanton or malicious attack. This was the SEX of the party profecuted. For women, men should ever feel, and feeling, should ever be their advocates. With all their faults, they are the folacers of life; and, when virtue is blended with their charms, they become irrefiftible. It was vain, however, altogether vain, to suppose that FOOTE could be foftened, by what would melt down, as it were, the feelings of others, in the mould of compassion. Mr. FOOTE abounded in wit and mimicry, and, both united, spared neither age, fex, nor condition. Instead of a pistol, he had a libel in his hand; this he presented to the bosom of a female, and threatened to direct the contents to her heart, unless she delivered to him Two Thousand Pounds. The critical period in which this attempt was made, as before intimated, was fuch as to interest every friend of the Duchess in her behalf. His Grace the Duke of-D 4 NEWCASTLE.

Newcastle was confulted. The Chamberlain of the Houshold was apprized of the circumstance; and, his prohibitory interference was earnestly solicited. He sent for the manuscript copy of the "Trip to Calais," perused and censured it. This occasioned a remonstrating letter * from Foote, to the

* LETTER from Mr. FOOTE to the EARL of HERTFORD.

" My Lord,

" I did intend troubling your Lordship with an earlier address, but the day after I received your

or prohibitory mandate, I had the honour of a visit

" from Lord Mountstuart, to whose interposition I

ind I am indebted for your first commands, relative

to the Trip to Calais, by Mr. Chetwynd, and your

" final rejection of it by Colonel Keen.

"Lord Mountstuart has, I presume, told your Lordship, that he read with me those scenes to

" which your Lordship objected, that he found them

" collected from general nature, and applicable to

" none but those who, through consciousness, were

" compelled to a felf-application. To fuch minds,

" my Lord, the Whole Duty of Man, next to the

" Sacred Writings, is the feverest satire that ever was

" wrote; and to the fame mark, if Comedy directs

the EARL of HERTFORD, at that time in office. Beside these, and other powerful aids, the Duchess called in jurisprudential advice. The Sages of the Robe were consulted, and their

" not her aim, her arrows are shot in the air; for by " what touches no man, no man will be mended. " Lord Mountstuart defired that I would fuffer him " to take the play with him, and let him leave it with " the Duchess of Kingston: he had my consent, my " Lord, and at the same time an assurance, that I was " willing to make any alteration that her Grace would " fuggest. Her Grace faw the play, and, in con-" fequence, I faw her Grace; with the refult of "that interview, I shall not, at this time, trouble 46 your Lordship. It may, perhaps, be necessary to 66 observe, that her Grace could not discern, which " your Lordship, I dare fay, will readily believe, a " fingle trait in the character of Lady Kitty Crocodile, 66 that refembled herfelf. " After this representation, your Lordship, will, I

"doubt not, permit me to enjoy the fruits of my labour; nor will you think it reasonable, because a capricious individual has taken it into her head, that
I have pinned her russes awry, that I should be puinished by a poniard stuck deep in my heart; your

"Lordship has too much candour and justice to be the instrument of so violent and ill-directed a blow.

their opinions were, "That the Piece was a malicious libel, and that should it be represented, a short-hand writer ought to be employed by the Duchess to attend on

"Your Lordship's determination is not only of the " greatest importance to me now, but must inevitably " decide my fate for the future, as after this defeat, it will " be impossible for me to muster up courage enough to se face Folly again; between the muse and the magis-" trate there is a natural confederacy; what the last es cannot punish, the first often corrects; but when she ss finds herfelf not only deferted by her ancient ally, but fees him armed in the defence of her foe, the has " nothing left but a speedy retreat : Adieu then, my "Lord, to the stage. Valeat res ludicra, to which, 46 I hope, I may with justice add, plaudite, as, during " my continuance in the service of the Public, I ne-" ver profited by flattering their passions, or falling in with their humours, as upon all occasions, I have exerted my little powers (as indeed I thought it my duty) in exposing follies, how much soever the 66 favourites of the day; and pernicious prejudices, 44 however protected and popular. This, my Lord, has 66 been done, if those may be believed who have the best right to know, sometimes with success; let me at add too, that in doing this I never lost my credit 46 with the Public, because they knew that I proceeded

" the night of representation, to minute " each offensive passage, as the groundwork " of a profecution." This advice was followed, because consonant with the ideas of the Duchefs, who, by this time, had become a very great lawyeress. BLANCHARD was the person selected in preference to GURNEY; and his admission-fee to one of the fide-boxes being properly guaranteed, a complete entrapment was supposed to be laid for FOOTE. Whether he received private intimation of the scheme, or whether he found his attempt on the purse of the Duchess, excite the displeasure of those whose favours were of consequence to him; whatever caused the intimidation, intimidated he began to be. The proof which he. gave of it was, a denial that he ever had

"SAMUEL FOOTE."

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made

[&]quot;ceeded upon principle; that I distained being
either the echo or the instrument of any man, however exalted his station, and that I never received.

reward or protection from any other hands than,
their own.

[&]quot; I have the honour to be, &c.

made so exorbitant a demand as Two Thousand Pounds for the suppression of the piece. This denial much contributed to his injury, because the Rev. Mr. Foster, * a clergyman of respectability, confiderably

MR. FOSTER had, in the early part of life, been felected by old Edward Wortley Montague, the husband of the late celebrated Lady Mary, and the father of the present Lady Bute, to superintend the education of that very eccentric character, the late Edward Wortley Montague. Foster was perfectly qualified for the station of a private tutor, but his pupil was so exceedingly disposed to fiy off, as it were, in a tangent, as to render it utterly impossible to fix his attention to any thing worthy pursuit. After thrice running away, and being discovered by his father's valet, crying flounders about the streets of Deptford, he was fent to the West Indies, whither Foster accompanied him. On their return to England, a good-natured stratagem was practifed to obtain a temporary supply of money from old Montague, and at the same time to give him a favourable opinion of his fon's attention to a particular species of erudition. The stratagem was this: FOSTER writ a book which he entitled, " The Rife " and Fall of the Roman Republics." To this he subjoined the name of Edward Wortley Montague, jun. E/q.

fiderably advanced in years, and who had through life mingled with the great world, came voluntarily forward, and made an affidavit of the following facts: " That in " confequence of the threat to perform the " Trip to Calais, he waited on Mr. Foote, " and remonstrated with him on the ex-

Efq. Old Wortley, feeing the book advertised, sent for his fon, and gave him a Bank note of one bundred pounds, promifing him a fimilar prefent for every new edition which the book should pass through. It was well received by the Public, and, therefore a fecond edition occasioned a second supply. It is now in libraries with the name of Wortley Montague, prefixed as the author, although he did not write a line of it. MR. FOSTER was afterwards chaplain to the celebrated Sir William-Wyndham: he then went to Petersburgh, in the fuite of the English Ambassador. Many years afterwards, he became acquainted with the Duke of Kingston, and, on the demise of his Grace, the Duchess appointed him her domestic Chaplain. He accompanied her on her first visit to Petersburgh, and the Empress, who had known him before, gave him an appointment in the academy, annexing a stipend out of her privy purfe. This appointment he held a short time, and died in the eighty fixth year of his age.

fuch a particular juncture. That Mr. Foote had only agreed to suppress the piece, on his receiving from the Duchess the fum of Two Thousand Pounds." This affidavit was so complete a resultation of the denial, as not to leave it in the power of ingenuity to retort; and with the public, the testimony of Mr. Foster had every desired effect.

Thus defeated in point of fact, FOOTE found himself baffled also in point of design, The Chamberlain would not permit the piece to be reprefented. Foote tried the force of his connections; but it was the effort of weakness against inflexibility. Here the utmost which his humour could do, was to support a laugh at the expence of his purse. He was to be merry in fadness for sadness the loss of sixteen bundred pounds must privately have occasioned. So little did FOOTE relish the deprivation of this fum, that he opened a new negociation with the Duchess, causing it to be intimated to her, "That it was in his power to publish, 66 if " if not to perform; but that were his ex-" pences reimburfed, (and the fum which " her grace had formerly offered him " would do the bufinefs) he would defift." This intimation being communicated to the Duchefs, she did in this, as in too many cases, ask the opinion of her friends, with a fecret determination to follow her own. FOOTE finding that she began to yield, preffed his defire inceffantly; and she had actually provided bills to the amount of fixteen hundred pounds, which she would have given Foote, but for the following circumstance: The EARL of PETERBOROUGH, Doctor Isaac Schomberg, the Rev. Mr. FOSTER, and Mr. FIELD, the Solicitor. were alternately confulted, and they feverally reprobated the demand as a fcandalous imposition, with which it would be weakness to comply. Doctor Schomberg, in particular, declared, "That although he had " been for many years intimate with Foote, " and had fpent fome of the pleafantest " hours of his life in his company, yet he " would tell him to his face, as a man, that he

" he deferved to be run through the body for " fuch an attempt. It was more ignoble than "the conduct of an highwayman." This pointed language, dictated, as every utterance from the lips of ISAAC SCHOMBERG was, by the feelings of an honourable heart, had confiderable effect; but still the Duchess dreaded the pen almost as much as the personified humour of Foote; and of the powers of literary defence the was herfelf entirely deftitute. In this juncture of alarm, the Reverend Mr. JACKSON, who was at that time Editor of a political paper in some estimation with the oppositionists to the ruinous measures of Lord North, being asked his opinion of the demand made by Foote, returned this anfwer: " Instead of complying with it, your "Grace should obtain complete evidence of the menace and demand, and then confult your Counfel, whether a profecution will not lie for endeavouring to extort money by threats. Your Grace " must remember the attack on the first " Duke of Marlborough, who was endea-" voured to be menaced into compliance by a " ftranger,

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" stranger, who had formed a design either on his purse or his interest." This anfwer struck the EARL of PETERBOROUGH, and Mr. Foster, very forcibly, as in perfect coincidence with their own opinions. His Grace the DUKE of ANCASTER also accorded in idea. Mr. Jackson was then folicited to wait on Mr. FOOTE: Mr. Fofter, the proper Chaplain of the Duchess, professing himself to be too far advanced in years to enter the field of literary combat. Mr. Jackson consented to be the champion, on the subsequent condition, " That the Duchefs would give her honour never to retract her determination not to let Foote " extort from her a fingle guinea." Subscribing to this condition, Mr. JACKSON waited on Mr. Foote, at his house in Suffolk-street, adjoining the Haymarket Theatre. After the usual ceremonies, Mr. Jackson told him, "That he came as a " friend of the Duchess of Kingston, and " wished to be favoured with a categorical " answer to this question, whether Mr. " Foote meant to publish the piece which " the

" the Chamberlain had refused to license, " called A Trip to Calais?" Mr. Foote was about to enter into a long detail respecting the vast expence which had been incurred, when Mr. Jackson interrupted him thus: "If, Sir, you mean, by informing " me of the expence, to intimate an ex-" pectation that the whole, or any part of " it should be defrayed by the Duchess, I " fairly tell you that you will find yourfelf " mistaken; she will not give you one gui-" nea." Foote endeavoured to turn this off by a laugh, and instead of replying to the point, he begged Mr. Jackson would hear him read the letter which he had written to the Earl of Hertford, complaining of the hardship of prohibiting the reprefentation of a piece, merely because some lady of quality might suppose herself ridiculed for pinning ber ruffles awry; and although there was point, wit, and brilliancy in it, yet it was not an answer to the question; Mr. Jackson, therefore, finally repeated it, when Mr. Foote faid, "O, I shall certainly " publish the piece, unless the Duchess « will

will consider the heavy loss which I shall " fustain. But why the devil does Ifaac " Schomberg interfere? We should hunt "down these reps of quality in couples. " Befides, LADY KITTY CROCODILE will " fuit nine, out of ten, widows of fashion in the " kingdom. Their damned tears are like a " Shower in sunshine, refreshing their weeds, " and making their faces look the brighter." Mr. Jackson, on this, wished Mr. Foote a good morning, and was about to retire, when Foote put his hand on his shoulder, and faid, "What! and fo I am to be at-" tacked if I publish The Trip to Calais." Mr. Jackson replied, "The publication " will be an attack from you, Mr. Foote, " the effect of which, I, as the friend of " the Duchess, will do my utmost to pre-" vent." Here the interview ended.

Foote, however, still wished to have matters compromised, and a meeting to take place. To accomplish this, he addressed a letter to the Duchess which began by stating, "That a Member of the Privy Council, and a friend of her Grace, (by whom

whom he meant the Duke of Newcastle) " had converfed with him on the fubject of " the dispute between them; and that for " himself he was ready to have every thing " adjusted." This letter gave the Duchess a triumph. There was concession in every line. She fent for Mr. Jackfon. Thanked him ten thousand times for his interference. Declared that he had faved her fixteen bundred pounds. She shewed him the letter which she had received from Foote, and defired him, in her name, to answer it, and publish both. This he declined, alleging, that a newspaper controverfy would degrade her. She however, thought otherwife; and the town was amufed by the following correspondence passing between the Duchess, and her mimic antagonist:

"To her Grace the Duchess of Kingston.

"MADAM,

"A member of the Privy Council, and a friend of your Grace's, he has begged

me not to mention his name, but I sup-

" pose your Grace will easily guess him,

" has just left me; he has explained to me, what I did not conceive, that the publi-

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cation of the scenes in the Trip to Calais,

" at this juncture, with the dedication and

" preface, might be of infinite ill confe-

" quence to your affairs.

" I really, Madam, wish you no ill, and

" should be forry to do you an injury.

"I therefore give up to that confideration,

what neither your Grace's offers, nor the

" threats of your agents could obtain; the

" fcenes shall not be published, nor shall

any thing appear at my theatre, or from

" me, that can hurt you;

"Provided the attacks made on me in

"the newspapers, does not make it neces-

" fary for me to act in defence of myself.

"Your Grace will therefore fee the ne-

" ceffity of giving proper directions.

" I have the honour to be,

" Your Grace's

"Most devoted servant,

"SAM. FOOTE."

North End, Sunday, Aug. 13th, 1775.

(COPY.*)

* This letter is printed exactly from the manuscript. To

To Mr. FOOTE.

« SIR,

"I was at dinner when I received your ill-judged letter. As there is little confideration required, I shall facrifice a moment to answer it.

"A Member of your privy council can never hope to be of a lady's cabinet.

"I know too well what is due to my own dignity, to enter into a compromise with an extortionable affassin of private reputation. If I before abhorred you for your stander, I now despise you for your concessions; it is a proof of the illiberality of your satire, when you can publish or suppress it as best suits the needy converience of your purse. You first had the cowardly baseness to draw the sword, and, if I sheath it, until I make you crouch like the subservient vassal as you are, then is there not spirit in an injured woman, or mor meanness in a slanderous bussion.

"To a man my fex alone would have fereened me from attack—but I am writing to the descendant of a Merry Andrew,

" and

"and prostitute the term of manhood, by applying it to Mr. Foote.

"Cloathed in my innocence, as in a coat of mail, I am proof against an host of foes; and, conscious of never having intentionally offended a single individual, "I doubt not but a brave and generous."

"I doubt not but a brave and generous people will protect me from the malevo-

"lence of a theatrical affaffin. You shall

"have cause to remember, that though I would have given liberally for the relief

" of your necessities, I scorn to be bullied

" into a purchase of your silence.

"There is fomething, however, in your pity at which my nature revolts. To make me an offer of pity, at once betrays your infolence and your vanity. I will keep the pity you fend until the morning before you are turned off, when I will return it by a Cupid, with a box of lip-falve, and a choir of chorifters shall chaunt a favore to your requiem.

E. KINGSTON.

"Kingston-House,

" Sunday, 13th August.

« P. S.

"P.S. You would have received this fooner, but the fervant has been a long time writing it."

(COPY.)

To the DUCHESS of KINGSTON.

" MADAM,

"Though I have neither time nor incultination to answer the illiberal attacks of
vour agents, yet a public correspondence
with your Grace is too great an honour
for me to decline. I can't help thinking
but it would have been prudent in your
Grace to have answered my letter before
dinner, or at least postponed it to the cool
hour of the morning; you would then
have found that I had voluntarily granted
that request which you had endeavoured,
by so many different ways, to obtain.

"Lord Mountstuart, for whose amiable qualities I have the highest respect, and whose name your agents first unnecessificatily produced to the public, must recollect, when I had the honour to meet him at Kingston House, by your Grace's

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"appointment, that instead of begging relief from your charity, I rejected your
fplendid offers to suppress the Trip to
Calais, with the contempt they deferved. Indeed, Madam, the humanity
of my royal and benevolent Master, and
the public protection, have placed me
much above the reach of your bounty,

"But why, Madam, put on your coat of mail against me? I have no hostile intentions. Folly, not vice, is the game I pursue. In those scenes which you so unaccountably apply to yourself, you must observe, that there is not the slightest hint at the little incidents of your life, which have excited the curiosity of the Grand Inquest for the county of Middlefex. I am happy, Madam, however, to hear, that your robe of innocence is in such persect repair; I was asraid it might have been a little the worse for the wearing; may it hold out to keep you warm the next winter.

"The progenitors your Grace has done me the honour to give me, are, I prefume, E merely

" merely metaphorical persons, and to be confidered as the authors of my muse. "and not of my manhood: a Merry An-" drew and a Proftitute are no bad poetical " parents, especially for a writer of plays: "the first to give the humour and mirth, "the last to furnish the graces and powers " of attraction. Proftitutes and players too " must live by pleasing the public; not but so your Grace may have heard of ladies, who, 46 by private practice, have accumulated " amazing great fortunes. If you mean " that I really owe my birth to that pleafant " connection, your Grace is grossly deceived. " My father was, in truth, a very ufeful " Magistrate and respectable country gen-" tleman, as the whole county of Cornwall " will tell you; my mother, the daughter of " Sir Edward Goodere, Bart. who reprefent-" ed the county of Hereford; her fortune was " large, and her morals irreproachable, till " your Grace condefcended to ftain them ";

^{*} This mother, whom Mr. Foote thus affects to rewere, he suffered to remain a prisoner for debt, within the

"ted your fervice."

"the was upwards of fourfcore years old when she died, and, what will surprize your Grace, was never married but once in her life. I am obliged to your Grace for your intended present on the day, as you politely express it, when I am to be turned off. But where will your Grace get the Cupid to bring me the lip-salve? That family, I am afraid, has long quitted your service.

"Pray, Madam, is not Jackson the name of your female confidential secretary? and is not she generally clothed in black petticoats made out of your weeds?

"I fancy your Grace took the hint when you last resided at Rome; you heard

the rules of the King's Bench, and that at a time when he was in the zenith of his fame, lolled at his ease in an equipage, and, like the rich man described in the Gospel, "fared sumptuously every day." His liberal allowance for her support in confinement, was, twenty pounds a year! This is a fact: let the public make the comment.

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[&]quot; So mourn'd the dame of Ephesus her love."

there, I fuppole, of a certain Joan, who was once elected a Pope, and, in humble imitation, have converted a pious Parson into a chambermaid. The scheme is new in this country, and has doubtless its particular pleasures. That you may never want the benefit of the clergy in every emergence, is the sincere wish of

... Your Grace's

" Most devoted, and
" obliged humble servant,
" SAMUEL FOOTE."

This farce carrying on with Foote, ferved to turn, for a time, the current of thought into a different channel; but, it becoming necessary, in the progress of events, to adopt some serious measures, either with a view to evade, or meet the pending prosecution, the Duchess openly affected a most earnest desire to have the trial, if possible, accelerated. Secretly, however, she was employed in trying every stratagem, in the power of art to devise, to elude the measures taken against her. A very favourable opportunity

portunity offered, which, had she embraced, her purpose would have been accomplished. The critical moment thus presented itself. It became a matter of debate, in the House of Peers, whether the trial of her Grace should, or should not, be carried on in Westminster Hall. The expence, to be incurred by the nation, was, by feveral Peers, confidered as inducing a burden wholly unnecessary. LORD MANSFIELD endeavoured to avail himself of this objection, in favour of the Ducheis, whom it was his private wish to have faved from the exposure of a trial, and the ignominy of what he well knew must follow, a conviction. His Lordship thus delivered his fentiments: "But the arguments about the " place of trial, fuggest to my mind a " question as to the propriety of any trial " at all. Cui bono? What utility is to be " obtained, suppose a conviction be the re-" fult? The lady makes your Lordships a " curtefy, and you return a bow." This language, although vehemently opposed by the Chancellor BATHURST, yet confiderably damped E 2

damped the ardor of the profecutors. The tendency of the observation was extremely perceptible; and, aware of the private influence which Lord Mansfield had at the time, it was apprehended that he might fo exert it, as to defeat, by fome means or other, the purpose aimed at. Here, then, was the critical inftant in which the Duchefs might have extricated herself. An hint was privately conveyed to her, that the fum of TEN THOUSAND POUNDS would fatisfy every expectation, and put an end to the profecution. This hint was improved into an authoritative proposal. The Duchess was entreated by her friends to embrace the measure, but through a fatal confidence, either in her legal advisers, her own manœuvrings, or a commixture of both, she rejected the proposal with an air of insult. This was folly in the extreme; and yet it was deferving pity, because it was folly misguided. From Dr. COLLIER, the Civilian, to Mr. WALLACE, the Counsel, the language uniformly held was, " That the Duchess had not any " thing to fear." The late SERJEANT DAVY,

DAVY, who at first faid, that " the case " lay in a nutsbell, and that her Grace would " inevitably be convicted," on being introduced to Kingston House, afforded the following very remarkable instance of tergiversation. The Serjeant dined with the Duchess on a day when she received a letter from her Counfel, Mr. Wallace, then at Bath. The contents reviving her spirits, the communicated them to the company, with the following confolatory observation; " My heart is now at rest; Mr. Wallace " wishes for the trial, that he may give me " joy of a triumph." Serjeant Davy, on this, faid, " If WALLACE knows your "Grace's case as well as I do, he will, I " am confident, agree with me in opinion. " I will forfeit my right band as a man, and " my reputation as Lawyer, if your Grace " has not less than nothing to fear." The Earl of PETERBOROUGH, after dinner, took Mr. Jackson, who happened to be of the party, aside, and facetiously asked him, " Whether he knew the cause of the learned Serjeant's fudden conversion?" Mr. E 4 TACKSON

JACKSON pointed to an order for a fide of venison, and some excellent Madeira, which were to be sent to the Serjeant's villa; and he added, "That a twenty-pound note for every visit, were arguments sufficient to "proselyte an accommodating mind."

Under all these affurances of safety, the Duchess affumed an indifference about the business, which but ill accorded with her situation. She talked of the absolute necesfity of fetting out for Rome; affected to have fome material business to transact with his Holiness the Pope; and she took, in consequence, every measure in her power to accelerate the trial, as if the regular pace of justice were not swift enough to overtake her. She did not, however, abandon her manœuvring. On the contrary, at the moment in which she had claimed her privilege as a Peeress, and petitioned for a speedy trial, she was busied in a scheme to get hold of the principal evidence, Mrs. CRADOCK, and prevail on her to quit the kingdom. A near relation of this woman was a deliverer of penny-post letters. He

was spoken to, and he engaged to let the Duchefs have an interview with Mrs. CRA-DOCK; but her Grace was to be disguised, and to reveal herfelf only after some conversation. The stratagem was adopted. The Duchess changed her fex in appearance, and waited, at the appointed hour and place, without feeing either Mrs. CRA-DOCK, or the person who had promised to effect the meeting. The fact is, that every minutia of this bufiness had been communicated to the profecutors, who inftructed the letter-carrier to pretend an acquiescence in the scheme. The above project having failed, another manœuvre was adopted.

The Duchefs, hearing that the profecutors witnesses were boarded at Mr. Tatterfal's, Hyde Park-corner, ever fond of enterprize, contrived fixing a person to refide among them, with a view to ingratiate himfelf on familiar terms, to get at a knowledge of the evidence they were respectively to give: their quarters being in the nature of an inn and tavern, the scheme was accomplished in the following manner: the person fixed

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fixed on for this business, introduced himself as a Shropshire gentleman just arrived, put up his horse as if by accident, having some parliamentary business that called his attention for about two months; and taking a particular liking to the fituation, his health not permitting him to fleep in London, enquired whether he could be accommodated with board and lodging? being answered in the affirmative, replied, he should leave his horse, and return the next day with his baggage, which he expected in London that evening by the diligence; he returned and took possession of his apartment, where he remained the whole day to adjust his papers and recruit himself after a fatiguing journey.

In three or four days he hinted a diflike to eating alone, and wished to be accommodated in a family way: he was informed there was a company resident there on business, who usually were entertained at one table; it should be mentioned; and if they would consent, he might join them, they acquiescing: he was introduced, and being a man of pleasant conversation, they formed

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an agreeable fociety. Such early fuccess with the plot, was very agreeable to the Duchess; he was supplied without regard to expence, and conducted himfelf with the adroitness of the most experienced spy; the witneffes Mrs. Cradock, and Mrs. Phillips were the principal aim; they were fo pleafed with his fociable disposition as to shew him great respect; he gained from their conversation every iota of the nature of their evidence; they furnished him with a true history of his notable employer, who had enjoined him to give her a faithful account as often as he could; he furnished her therewith two or three times a week, by fixed meetings with: an agent, the third and only person in the fcheme, who was then refident at Kingston House; at some of those meetings the Duchess was a party. This scheme was carried on for fome weeks, and the Duchefs having poffested herself of the nature of their evidence, which in fact was no more than she knew before, a new project was fuggested, not of the most delicate nature: 1 think, Sir, it is possible to entice them E 6 "to

" to a play, which accomplished, propose " a fupper; they are fond of a cheerful " glass, nowithstanding their age; I am sure " they will confent; there are houses of enstertainment in that neighbourhood con-" venient for the purpose; get them in-" toxicated and put to bed; a fudden change " might be effected; in all events get them " once in that flate, my purpose may be " completed." The Duchess was now proposing a plan to a man who saw something aimed at he did not relish; his principles were not in unity with his employer; he viewed his original engagement as fair game, as fuch justifiable; - however, posfessing a quick conception, he discovered no ideas contrary to the Duchess's views; he acquiesced; the plan was accordingly settled, but never purfued; and holding himself not criminal by perfuading her to believe he had proposed an excursion to the playhouse, which they would by no means agree to till the trial was over, the project was given up.

We are now arrived at the week previous to her trial; he continued his quarters at

Tatterfal's till the second day of the trial. when pretending to have received advice that his brother was confined to his bed in a dangerous illness, he was obliged to take leave of his unfuspecting friends, with whom he had remained near fix weeks, discharged his bill, and fet off for Shropshire.-He had conducted this business with a skill which met with the Duchess's hearty approbation, and notwithstanding the heavy expence which attended it, she departed from her accustomed mode, by not disputing any one article of his accounts; they were balanced without a murmur :- it must be observed, that when he first engaged, he was to have a handsome pecuniary gratification at the conclusion; the pecuniary part was departed from, in other respects he received a profusion of promises: - he was by trade a jeweller, and being an ingenious mechanic, she declared her intentions to put him in a mode of-making his fortune; he was questioned if he would like to go abroad; he replied in the affirmative, "Then, Sir, I will take you " to Petersburgh, my interest with the Em-" press

or press and nobility are great, your good fortune is certain, it is the only fpot where " men of genius flourish; in the mean time I will employ you to affift Captain " Harding in attending on the various " tradesmen employed in furnishing my " ship, I am fure you will do all in your of power to accelerate that business; the captain is a good man, and will be happy so to be affifted with your abilities, and I will take you with me to Petersburgh " as my fleward." He entered on his new employment, and continued his affiftance to the captain's fatisfaction. - The ship compleated and launched, he went in her as. steward, and arrived at Petersburgh, where he refided a confiderable time without the least prospect of succeeding, as he had been perfuaded to expect; her behaviour to himfelf and every one dependant on her was intolerable, and none met her favour who could not bear with the most degrading impositions: she had now assumed the conduct of an arbitrary Russian, dispossessed of every principle of honour and humanity: he experienced her infamous treatment, and folicited a fettlement, which he at last accomplished by arbitration, but not without the unwearied interference of some English gentleman resident there, whom she most shamefully endeavoured to bassle: they saw her disposition; a sum was agreed on far short of his just demands, (all reward was banished) he was advised to submit and return to England, which he did in the best manner he was able.

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best possible arrangement of matters preparatory for the trial. On the *fifteenth* day of April, 1776, the business came on in Westminster Hall. It was of five days*

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On the fourth of these days, the late Lady Harrington, of amorous memory, being among other Peeresses, in her box, was presented by Mr. Evelyn Meadows, the real prosecutor of the Duchess, with some flowers. Lady Harrington thanked him for the compliment, and, in return said, "I hope in God I shall be able to present you shortly with "the Laurel." The same Lady, on the sirst day of the trial, when the Duchess appeared at the bar, made use of this ejaculation:

continuance, and the principal object argued was, the admission, or not, of a sentence of the Spiritual Court, in a suit for jactitation of marriage, so as to stop the proof of a marriage, in an indictment for polygamy *. The judges deciding against the

tion: "The Devil confound her! How brazen the wretch looks!" This, from LADY HARRINGTON, was truly ludicrous.

* This was the point on which rested the whole of the case. The sentence of the Ecclesiastical Court, was the only thing which could be offered, on the part of the Duchess, as a plea in bar to evidence. If it were admissible in this shape, there remained a doubt, how far such a sentence ought to be of any validity, provided it had been collusively obtained. To have both these particulars resolved into a certainty, the two sollowing questions were submitted to the Judges for their opinion:

First. " Whether a sentence of the Spiritual Court, against a marriage, in a suit for justitation of mar-

" riage, is conclusive evidence so as to stop the Coun-

fel for the Crown from proving the faid marriage,

in an indictment for polygamy?"

Second. "Whether, admitting such sentence to be conclusive upon such indistment, the Counsel for

admission of such a sentence, in bar to evidence,

"the Crown may be admitted to avoid the effect of fuch fentence, by proving the same to have been obtained by fraud, or collusion?"

The decision of the Judges, on both these questions, was substantially as followeth. To the first point propounded, the answer was, " That the ground of the " judicial powers possessed by the Ecclesiastical Courts, " is merely of a spiritual consideration, pro correctione " morum, et pro salute animæ; for the correction of " morals, and for the salvation of the foul. But the " great object of temporal jurisdiction is, the public " peace, and crimes against the public peace are " wholly, and in all their parts, of temporal cognizance-alone. The temporal courts alone can exof pound the law, and judge of the crimes, and its or proofs; in doing fo, they must see with their own eyes, and try by their own rules, that is, by the " Common Law of the land. Besides, a sentence in " a cause of jactitation, has only a negative, and a " qualified effect. It pronounceth, that the party boafting of a marriage, has failed in his proof, and that the libellant is free from all matrimonial contract, as far as yet appears; leaving it open to new proofs " of the same marriage, in the same cause, or to any " proofs of that or any other marriage, in another cause; and if such sentence is no plea to a new suit " there, and doth not conclude the Court which proec nounceth,

dence, the fact of the two marriages was

se nounceth, it cannot conclude a Court, which re-66 ceives the sentence, from going into new proofs to " make out that, or any other marriage. So that, " admitting the fentence in its full extent and imof port, it only proves, that it did not yet appear that " the parties were married, and not that they were not s married at all: and by the rule laid down by Lord " Chief Justice Holt, such sentence can be no proof of any thing to be inferred by argument from it; and, therefore, it is not to be inferred, that there " was no marriage, at any time or place, because the "Court had not then fufficient evidence to prove a of marriage at a particular time and place. That fense tence and this judgment may stand well together, and both propositions be equally true: It may be 46 true, that the Spiritual Court had not then sufficient of proof of the marriage specified; and, that your 46 Lordships may now, unfortunately, find sufficient " proof of fome marriage."

To the fecond point propounded, the Judges refled their opinion on the subsequent, among other forcible reasons. "But, if the sentence were direct, and describe on the point, and as it stands, to be admitted as conclusive evidence on the Court, and not to be impeached from within; yet, like all other acts of the highest judicial authority, it is impeachable from without; although it be not permitted to shew

ss that

most clearly proved, and a conviction, of course, followed*. The Duchess was on her trial

"that the Court was mistaken, it may be shewn that they were misted. Fraud is an extrinsic collateral act, which vitiates the most solemn proceedings of Courts of Justice. Lord Coke says, it avoids all justicial acts, ecclesiastical or temporal. Collusion, being a matter extrinsic of the cause, may be imputed by a stranger, and tried by a Jury, and determined by the Courts of Temporal Jurisdiction.

"We (the Judges) are, therefore, unanimously of opinion;

First, "That a sentence in the Spiritual Court

" against a marriage, in a fuit of jactitation of mar-

" riage, is not conclusive evidence, so as to stop the

"Counsel for the Crown proving the marriage, in an indictment for polygamy.

" But, fecondly, admitting fuch fentence to be con-

" clusive upon such indictment, the Counsel for the

"Crown may be admitted to avoid the effect of fuch fentence, by proving the fame to have been ob-

" tained by fraud or collusion."

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* The Duchess being called to the bar, and informed of her conviction, by the Lord High Steward, she delivered a paper, praying the benefit of the peerage, according to the Statutes. On which, the prefent Chancellor, then Attorney General, displayed his commanding powers, in a speech replete with legal learning,

trial attended by Mrs. EGERTON, whose husband was of the Bridgewater family; Mrs. BARRINGTON, widow of General Barrington, a brother of the Peer of that name; the late Doctor Isaac Schomberg, and the present

learning, and directed to demonstrate, "That a "Peeress, convicted as the prisoner had been, could, on no other grounds, avoid Judgment of Death, but by claiming the benefits of the Statute of the Third and Fourth of William and Mary; which left her in a condition to be burnt in the hand, or imprisoned." This occasioned the following question to be submitted to the Judges:

"Whether a Peeress convicted by her Peers, of a clergyable felony, is by law entitled to the benefit of the Statutes, so as to excuse her from capital put nishment, without being burnt in the hand, or

being liable to any imprisonment?"

The Lord Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer, having conferred with the rest of the Judges present, delivered their unanimous opinion upon the said question, assigning also his reasons. The opinion was, "That a Peeress convicted of a clergyable selony, praying the benefit of the Statute, the first of Ed"avard VIth, is not only excused from capital pushintent, but ought to be immediately discharged, without being burnt in the hand, or liable to any im-

Doctor

Doctor Warren. One extraordinary method the Duches took to sustain her spirits; which was, to lose a certain quantity of blood almost every time in which she was ordered to withdraw from the bar.

The folemn business being concluded, the prosecutors had a plan in embryo to confine the Countess of Bristol (for so, after conviction, she in reality was) to this country; and to have her deprived of her personal property. A writ of "Ne exeat "regno"* was preparing, of which the Lady received private notice, and being advised

^{*} This information was given by the late Mr. Walla e, her chief and directing law counfel; he came early in the morning very privately, having left his carriage at Grosvenor-gate, walked on till he came to Hyde-park-wall, opposite to Kingston-house, where there is most generally ladders placed to get over by the publican at the Half-way house. The operation of such a writ she did not relish, and immediately quitted her house for Dover.—Whether such a writ was preparing, many of her friends doubted; at that time the valuable personals were out of the kingdom; they viewed the information in no other way than a

advised inflantaneously to leave the kingdom, the caused her carriage to be driven about the most public streets of the metropolis, invited a felect party to dine at Kingston-house, the better to cover her defign, while, in an hired post-chaise, she travelled to Dover. Mr. HARDING, the Captain of her yacht, was where, and he conveyed her in the first open boat that could be procured, to Calais. The Hotel d'Angleterre was chosen as the place of refidence, and, on her Grace entering the Court-yard, Monf. Dessein received her with more complaifance than cordiality; for, in France, the conviction was understood to have deprived her of all her posfessions, real and personal. Dessein, therefore, indicated his pity of her fate by a fignificant shrug of his shoulders. He was " highly honoured in the choice she had " made of his hotel; but, Mon Dieu!-" How unfortunate it was, that he could

manœuvre to get rid of her; she was a great plague to her lawyers, absolutely expecting their attention to no other concerns but her affairs. " not accommodate her with a fuite of " rooms! Had he only been apprifed of

" her intention to do him the favour!

"Now, a fingle apartment was all the accommodation in his power."

She was fatigued in body and mind. Rest, therefore, even in a room on the attic story, would have been the most welcome solacer in the bounty of Heaven to bestow.

While the Duchess, for fo she must be still styled, for the fake of uniformity in the narrative, was retired, DESSEIN contrived means to investigate the state of her finances, and being informed that she was still in the receipt of her estates, he, the morning after her arrival, brightened up his features, and was the happiest being on earth to acquaint her, that " the company who had occupied " apartments fuitable in every respect pour " Madame la Duchesse, were gone to Paris, " and consequently, they were devoted to " her use, if she should so please." This obeisance answered Dessein's purpose. She remained at his botel long enough to lend him

him a thousand pounds, when, being her debtor, he complained of her parsimony, and compelled her, by disrespectful treatment, to seek another abode. The money lent Dessein is not wholly repaid at this hour. The only accommodation which the Duchess could ever obtain was, to take the demand out in fire-wood. If a pun be excusable, this was a burning shame in Monsieur Dessein.

As Yorick justly observeth, "They ma-" nage these things better in France." The politesse of our Gallic neighbours is certainly a most powerful aid to their projects. Monfieur Dessein has that happy composure of features, bows fo respectfully, and is, apparently, fo much the devoted humble fervant of every body, that it is not furprizing he should have wormed himself into the general favour of English travellers, The Duchess, with all her pretensions to the gift of penetrating characters, was grossly duped by the keeper of her Hotel; yet was the imposition so smoothly effected, that DESSEIN and her Grace never rencountered each each other without parting the dearest friends in the world; she, with a gracious inclination of her head, only requesting it as a favour that more fire-wood might be fent in to lessen her demand; and he, with a semi-circular bow of his body, assuring her that a Magazine was at her command. This reciprocity of deceit was practised whenever Calais became the occasional or the stationary residence of the Duchess; and it being foreseen that such residence would be frequent, an habitation, affording some degree of comfort, was sought for, and obtained.

Monf. Cocove * had formerly held a commanding post at Calais; he was in conftitution,

* This Gentleman was for many years, PRESIDENT of CALAIS; and, the only fault ever imputed to him, in that honourable station, was, too great a partiality for the English. If there were to be a favour extended to any individual of our nation, the President of Calais was sure to accompany that savour by some act of liberality originating from himself. Monsieur Cocove died at his country seat, which is situated at a little distance from Calais, between that place and

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Stitution, habits, and appearance, an Englishman. The habits of our country he had acquired by refiding fome time among us. and, during that refidence, he had mixed with the first circles. The old Marquis of GRANBY had been his intimate friend and affociate. When the Duchefs fled to Calais. Cocove was fequestered at a little paternal feat within a few miles, being restricted to that, as his place of residence, conformable to the usage of France with respect to perfons of landed property who are involved. Cocove had an house in Calais, which his wife and family, amounting to three fons, and four daughters, occupied. The Duchels treated for the purchase of this house, and it was agreed to be fold her for one thoufand pounds, with permission to the family to occupy one fide of the quadrangle. The

St. Omer, leaving a widow who had been the best of movines, and an amiable progeny, who only contended in a virtuous struggle, who most should promote the happiness of the best of mothers. This lady is since dead. The offspring are living, and universally admired for their amiabilities of mind and person.

Duchess

Duchels took possession; and, as her ordinary custom was, she began to pull the greatest part of the old mansion about her ears, threw out a room with a bow-window. which projected over the privies belonging to the foldiers barracks; and that her visitors might only indulge a standing posture. this faloon, as she called it, was left without a chair. The Cocove family next engaged her attention, and before the had feen the half of them, she promised to make them all happy. The girls fhe aftonished with a fight of her diamonds, and her wardrobe; with the boys she conversed about the heroic deeds of her great-grandfather, throwing in occasional hints, that " commissions in the army would be com-" fortable things, and particularly in the " French fervice, which was fo highly ho-" nourable under the reigning Monarch, " for whom the had a prodigious regard. " She loved the King of France, and she " was very confident he had a regard for " her." Sans doubte, Madame la Ducheffe; " le Roi connus bien." " Yes-your King cc knows F 2

knows I love him. I have given a proof of it in preferring to spend my fortune in his country, although my dear friend, the King of Prussia, has given me the warmest invitation to reside at Berlin." This sincere veneration for the Gallic Monarch would, with equal sincerity, have been transferred to the Cham of Tartary, if his dominion had been the chosen place of refuge.

1776, Oct. 15th. The Duchess quitted Calais, intending to go to Rome through

Vienna.

Nov. 11. Arrived at Munich, at which city she met with her good friend, the late Dowager Electress of Saxony, who was then on a visit to her brother, the then Elector of Bavaria; the exiled Prince Radziville was also at Munich, accompanied by a Polish Count.

During her stay at Munich, a new title was proposed, and afterwards obtained by the Dowager Electress of her brother, the Elector of Bavaria, by the title of Countess of Warth, in that Electorate: here

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was also laid a plan for a correspondence to be opened with the Grand Maitresse at Vienna, in order for the Duchess to be introduced to the Empress, as Duchess of Kingston, on her arrival at Vienna, in case Sir Robert Murray Keith should refuse. [This ceremony was dispensed with at Munich, on the score of impropriety, prior to her being honoured with that ceremony at Vienna.]

20th. Left Munich, and on the

28th. Arrived at Vienna, after a very fatiguing journey, a fall of fnow having rendered the roads almost impassable. In a few days the Duchess experienced, that the plan of introduction, as settled at Munich, had failed. The Grand Maitresse having refused to interfere, the Duchess wrote her on the subject, and received a very mortifying answer, viz. That the Empress would not receive her, unless presented by the English Ambassador. By letter she applied to his Excellency: he came to her with the greatest politeness, and, as a friend, admonished her to design from persevering

in requesting him to present her as Duchess of Kingston, for he could not do it without an order from the Court of Great Britain. She then shewed him letters from the Dukes of Ancaster and Newcastle, the Earls of Hillsborough and Peterborough, and Lord Barrington, who had every one addressed her as Duchess of Kingston. These, he said, were no authority for him to introduce her by that stile; but he should have no objection to present her as Countess of Briftol, and render every act of friendship to make her situation at Vienna convenient and agreeable. This title she treated with the greatest contempt: his admonition failing, in the most polite and friendly manner he took leave, and departed. Her ambitious spirit now burst forth with the greatest fury, by publicly declaring, " that " he should present, and represent her to " the Imperial court of Vienna as Du-" chefs Dowager of Kingston, without de-" rogating, or taking from any of her " honors, as a Peeress of Great Britain; and that he should answer the contrary " at the Bar of the House of Lords, for " a breach of privilege." A notice in the above language was framed for his Excellency: from this meafure she was advised to defift; and being unable to prevail on her English Secretary, or any other person, to prefent it, this resolution dropped. Application was then made to the Nuncio, whom she perfonally knew. A messenger was dispatched to Rome, for his Holiness the present Pope to interfere, by requesting the Nuncio to mention the Duchess's wishes to the Empress. The messenger soon returned with his Holiness's request; but this interference had no effect on her Imperial Majesty. During this interval, the Duchess took another ground, affirming that an influence had been exercised by the King of England, among fome leading Peers, whereby he had fucceeded in biaffing their Lordships determination; and to promote this idea, a new step was taken to shew their Lordfhips' partiality, by getting the fentence of the Confiftory Court in Doctors Commons translated into Latin and French, by which Centence

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fentence it was declared she was free from all matrimonial contract, or espousals with Mr. Hervey, and also a translation of the most favourable part of her Trial before the House of Lords, in order that it might appear to the German nobility and gentry, that an undue influence had fucceeded; the confequence of which was their Lordships unjust determination of the 22d of April, 1776. When these translations were completed, clerks were employed to transcribe copies at the Hotel, her residence, during which interval her apartments appeared like public offices, day and night, for a confiderable time. A great number of copies were delivered at Vienna, and fent to every person of consequence within twenty miles. But it must be observed, before these copies were completed, a letter had been received from England, to apprife her of what was going forward in Doctors Commons, in order that the determination might not come upon her unexpectedly. This advice occasioned much perplexity in the Duchefs's

chess's mind, fearing that such determination would appear in the English newspapers at Vienna, and thereby prove her Translation to be composed of the most daring untruths. Here her usual genius assisted; and, never at a loss for fatanical projects, she made up the matter to her mind; and strange, though true to tell, the German mail was procured to be opened before it arrived at Vienna, and every newspaper taken out of the fame, except the English Ambassador's, his packet being too facred to be violated: every paper her own hands committed to the flames; and fo foon as she heard that the letters were delivered from the post-office, and that the Ambassador's packet had been delivered at his house, her English secretary was immediately dispatched to his Excellency's office, fignifying her anxiety to read the English newspaper, not having received one, a disappointment fhe had never before experienced, and to request the favour of seeing his paper: this his Excellency, most civilly, immediately complied with; her Grace, our readers F 5 will

will judge, was not fo immediately in hafte to return it; and two days elapfed before her Grace deigned to return it, and then not without a preffing meffage for that purpose, which at a moment could not be complied with, it being mislaid: but after an hour's fearch, she gives her fecretary in a violent hurry a newspaper, folded up, defires him to go immediately with her compliments to his Excellency, and acquaint him how uneafy fhe was at being fo remiss, but relied on his good nature to excuse it. This meffage was delivered in a most plaintive tone, accompanied with an apprehension that a fit of sickness would be the consequence. The fecretary was defired to return with the greatest haste. He directly put the paper in his pocket, went with precipitancy, left the paper with the above message, and returned home, when he found the Duchess in good spirits, the fick qualm having left her: but on his Excellency looking at the paper, it proved to be an old one. A messenger came to inform her fecretary of this mistake: mistake: of this he acquainted the Duchess: another fearch was made without effect; her-Grace then concluded that fome person on feeing it (there being no other in Vienna) had taken it away. Under this idea, the unsuspecting Secretary waited on his Excellency, and represented the matter as it really appeared to him, that fome perfonhad taken it away; on which his Excellency replied, he faw how the matter was ;- that himself and her secretary had been imposed on; and with the greatest good nature faid; he was forry it had happened, and defired. his respectful compliments.

The expected determination, in fact, was in these newspapers to the effect following, viz. Friday, the 20th of February, " Dr. Bettefworth had declared by his fentence, that the marriage with Lord Briftol had been fully established in the same manner ass before the Lords, and that such marriage was ftrictly legal."-This cause was brought as an introduction to a divorce, to be fued out against her on the score of adultery, which Lord Briftol could not do, prior to F 6 proving

proving his marriage with her, as she was before this hearing recognized as wife of the late Duke of Kingston, and not of the Earl of Bristol.

The above determination, had it appeared at this juncture at Vienna, would have been the most damning proof against her; but however, so far she had succeeded in preventing it appearing for the present, or at least while she remained there.

Translations had been delivered to the Empress and her fon, the present Emperor -Sycophants and toad-eaters were continually buzzing about her; costly entertainments were made, and the Duchess was fed with the expectation of hourly receiving a letter from the Grand Maitreffe, announcing the Empress's good opinion, and willingness to receive her Grace with the greatest friendship on the next day of Gala: with this affurance, a fuitable dress was immediately ordered for her to appear in, and also for her suite. But this happy day never arrived, to gratify the wishes of the ambitious Duchess; the virtuous and immortal Maria Therefa and her

fon Joseph were inexorable; neither the intercession of the mitred chief, nor a host of flatterers could prevail, even after they had read her translation of the trial and sentence of the high and respectable tribunal of the Peers of Great Britain, biassed, as it was said to be, through the influence of the ornament of Sovereigns.

This disappointment she pretended as-fected her so much, that a fit of sickness must be the consequence; this farce was wonderfully well performed for the greatest part of three weeks, by keeping her bed, and procuring it to be announced that her life was in danger; but, alas! this manœuvre failed; for notwithstanding her emissaries had considentially whispered an enquiry by the Empress after the poor Duchess's health, an invitation to the Court never arrived, and her Grace was under the necessity of recovering, which a sudden change of milder weather, and the frost beginning to break, soon effected.

The Duchess having received advice that her enemies in England were proceeding rigorously in the Court of Chancery, and that that the Court expected she would put in an immediate answer, for which purpose a commission would be sent to Paris, she was under the necessity of laying aside her intended route to Rome, and return to Paris.

During the Carnival at Vienna, the Duchess appeared at the masquerade, in the masque of a magician; and at that entertainment she received from a mask in a domino, an insult, which gave her the greatest uneasiness; the mask was male, and said to be the Imperial Joseph; nevertheless, whoever it was, she never declared the expression; and whatever it was, her mind was so hurt, that she left the room, and returned home much disconcerted.

The Duchess was preparing to leave Vienna, and had actually got into her coach; but having left a tradesman's bill unpaid, on account of a difference of between three and four ducats, which the man had insisted was just, her Grace would not pay any part of his bill, notwithstanding he had proposed to have the same taxed by tradesmen, or settled by magistrates: to this she would not listen; and the dispute rested in that state till the

day she intended to leave Vienna and bilk: him. The time of her departure the man got scent of, and accordingly, on the instant. the coach was fetting off, a party of foldiers. furrounded the carriage, aided by an officer of the law, who arrested her, and she was obliged to alight. A guard was placed over the carriage and baggage. This difgrace, by fome minds would have been feverely felt, but in the Duchess, it only served to heighten her baseness; for, instead of preventing her detention, by immediately discharging the bill, (which had been allowed to be just by all who faw it) her Grace determined to litigate the claim; and fubmitted to be detained three days for that purpose, when she was condemned to pay the full amount of the bill, with all costs and expences.

N. B. In these countries, law proceedings are carried on in a very summary way.

This business finished, at an extraordinary expence of 200 ducats, her departure was finally concluded on, when she proceeded on her return to Paris with the utmost expedition, at which city having put in her answer.

answer, she remained there about three weeks, and returned to Calais in the month of April.

As it was the lot of the Duchess to be perpetually on the remove, fome incidents had happened at Rome, of which she received advice, which rendered it necessary for her once more to visit that renowned city. In the Public Bank she had deposited her plate, for fafety, when she set out for England; and in her palace she had left a renegade Spanish Friar, and an English girl, whom she had carried to Italy, on her last expedition. The girl was handsome, and had a fense of prudence, aided by that prejudice against foreigners, which the lower orders of this, and of most other countries, possess. A CARDINAL, who, for the honour of the Holy See, shall be nameless, had frequently laid aside the pomp and sanctity of Spirituals, betraying a thorn in the flesh, stiled by St. Paul the " Messenger of " Satan," with the buffetings of which his Eminence was well acquainted. His visits to the palace of the Duchess were frequent;

the pretence always was, a fomething particular to communicate to her Grace, and a confequent inquisitiveness about her return. The FRIAR, however, fmoked the CAR-DINAL, and the Cardinal, in return, was jealous of the Friar. The poor girl, who understood not a syllable of any other language than that of her country, found herfelf extremely embarraffed. The FRIAR knew English enough for an ordinary conversation, and, in the true style of a ghostly adviser, he cautioned the girl against the defigns of the Cardinal. Whether from real diflike, or from the not being able to have a verbal intercourse, the overtures of the Cardinal were rejected, and whenever he came to the palace she left him, if his Eminence fo pleafed, to make love to the Friar. Thus getting rid of a rival, the Friar plied his arts fo fuccessfully, as to occasion one bed to be the only necessary convenience for the two inmates of the palace to fleep in. Having accomplished this end, the Friar deemed it a pity that fuch of the moveables as were eafily portable, thould.

should remain in an useless state; converted into cash, they might circulate to the benefit of society. Under an impression so charitable to the world, he walked off with what he could carry, beside disposing of quantities of articles to different purchasers. The poor girl was only left with a consolation, that what she had read in the Bible about "Increase and multiply," was likely to be fulfilled by her. It was of these transactions the Duchess was informed by letters. The necessity of her immediate journeying to Rome was urgent, and she fet out as soon as she could expedite the necessary preparations.

During her travel, an illness excepted, not any particular occurrence happened. On her arrival being known, Cardinal Albani waited on her, to whom she communicated the particulars of the behaviour of the Friar, prudently reserving the circumstance of the attack made by one of the Cardinal's brotherhood, on the chastity of the girl. Her situation was not the present object of thought. The question was,

how the property embezzled by the Friar could be re-obtained? The girl fobbed, shed tears in abundance, on her knees intreated forgiveness; but, with all this submissive penitence, she could feareely obtain the attention of a moment. "You " must have known the Friar broke open " the escritoire. Where are the candle-" flicks? What! is all the linen gone? " By the living God, he has stripped the pa-" lace!" The girl, whose thriving situation wholly engroffed her thoughts, still pressed her suit. - " Indeed, your Grace, I " did not confent-I was fast asleep when " the Friar came into my room. He took " hold __ " _ " I wish he had hold of you " this moment, and that you were both in " the galleys. What is all your nonfenfe " to my property? Could not you play the " fool together, without stripping me? "The diamond buckle of my dear Lord " Duke! The devil confound the villain! Go along, like a huffey as you are. Stay " -I'll have you punished, unless you find "the rafcally Friar." Here a message of concondolence from his Holiness was notified, and the meffenger being ordered in, the style was thus varied-" What I have lost " is of confiderable value; but, to take " advantage of a poor innocent young " creature, is more distressful to me than " the trifles he has taken. My dearest " Lord left me an ample fortune, and I " wish to make others happy with it. This " unfortunate girl I took from a child, and " meant to have provided for her as a mo-"ther. I forgive her, poor thing! My " most humble and dutiful respects to his " Holiness. Helas! [a figh] when I think on my troubles, they almost overwhelm " me. With my dear Duke [tears] every " happiness was buried. But God is all-" fufficient. His Holiness knows not how " I have been perfecuted; but I forgive " my perfecutors. Poor Belifarius! how " ungenerously was he treated! I often " thought of him during my perfecution." The messenger retiring, the inquest as to what were loft, and the probability of recovery, was inftantly refumed; until all hope

hope of re-obtaining the valuables becoming visionary, to get the plate out of the publick bank, and transport it fafely from Italy, was the sole object of negociation, in which the Duchess proving successful, she returned to Calais, and the robbery of the Friar became one of her ordinary tales.

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On the return of the Duchess from Rome, the expeditious communication between Calais and England afforded the earlieft intelligence she could wish relative to the proceedings of her opponents. Their business was now, if possible, to set aside the will of the Duke of Kingston. There was not a probability of their fucceeding in the attempt, but still the attempt was to be made. This kept alive the apprehension of danger in the mind of the Duchess; and so long as that apprehension subsisted, it was necessary, in policy, to affect a particular regard for certain perfons in England, who had the apparent power of rendering a fervice. The late Sir GEORGE HAYE was at that time DEAN of the ARCHES. Not more from the eminence of his fituation than from the fplendor \$15Q 33

splendor of his abilities, his rank was high in the public esteem. Doctor Isaac SCHOMBERG had been a cotemporary with Sir George at Merchant Taylor's feminary, Through life they loved each other. The opinion of Sir George, as to the impeachability of the Duke of Kingston's will, was frequently wanted; and through the intermediation of Doctor Schomberg, this was obtained. Sir George Haye from the first ridiculed the attempt to fet aside the will as a futility. Schomberg, however, defirous of obtaining the fullest confirmation of the case, pressed Sir George to dictate a few lines on the fubject, in a letter which he proposed to fend to the Duchess .- " Well, " Isaac, (faid Sir George) I will. Let the Duchels defire her common lawyers to at-" tack the rock of Gibraltar." Schomberg, on this, caufed every confolatory affurance to be transmitted to the Duchess. She received it, and professed every feeling which gratitude could inspire. "Doctor Sсном-" BERG was an honourable character! too *6 honourable for this world! The counteres part

" part of her dear Lord in nobleness of "foul! She wished she could make him bappy!" As a splendid return for his real anxiety to have her mind at ease, this was the gracious manner of her procedure:

One morning Doctor Schomberg was waited on at his apartments in Conduitstreet, and a prefent from the Duchess of Kingston was delivered him. This present was a ring, brilliantly encircled, the stone a deep blue, and the words " Pour I Amitie," on the stone. The intrinsic value was never once confidered by Schomberg; it was the prefumeable tribute of gratitude which affected his mind. He wore the ring, and, in almost every company, proclaimed the donor. But a short portion of time elapsed, before one of the brilliants in the word " Amitie" fell out, as if the very mention of friend-Thip by the Duchefs, were fufficient to render the term fragile: to have a fubstitute replaced, a Jeweller was fent for. When he came, he looked first at the ring, then at Doctor Schomberg, and, on being asked, "When he could do what was necessary?"

the Jeweller answered, "I hope you will "not be offended, Sir, but it is really not worth your while to have any thing done; the middle stone is a composition, and the whole did not cost more, in Paris, than fix-and-thirty shillings!" "Is that the case," faid the Doctor, "then I will foon dispose of it." He first trampled the contemptible bauble under his feet, then shung it out of the window, saying, "There "goes Nobility."

Previous to her trial, the Duchess had formed a defign to vifit Petersburgh. A ship had been built for her, containing every splendid accommodation. There was a drawing-room, a dining-parlour, kitchen, and other conveniences. This ship attracted, as may be supposed, general observation; and the Russian Ambassador being given to understand that the whole had been intended as a conveyance of the Duchess, on a visit to so august a sovereign as the Empress of Russia, the politesse of Courts compelled an acknowledgment, on his part, that the compliment would be graciously

oraciously received. But there was fomething more than the mere compliment of a visit. Her Grace had some pictures, of confiderable value, which devolved to her on the demise of the Duke. These she had offered as a present to the Empress, who had deigned to accept them. The shipping them for Petersburgh, that they might be conveyed from where they ought to have remained, to whither they should not have been fent, had occasioned as many conferences between the Duchess and the Ruffian Ambaffador, as would have been requisite to adjust the differences of Europe. At last, however, a cargo of pictures, and other valuable articles, cleared the river, and arrived fafe at Petersburgh. The Empress disposed of them as accorded with her fancy, and her Ambassador was charged, in her name, to notify her pleafure. The Duchess, in this, was a copyist of the Eastern customs. Her presence was accompanied by a present, the better to enfure a favourable reception.

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To convey her Grace to Petersburgh, the ship which had been built for the purpose, was ordered to Calais. It arrived there, and HARDING, the commander of her yacht, was confidered as the Captain. In that capacity he fuperintended the preparations, and did every thing requifite in a man of honesty. An obstruction, however, arose, and that of a serious nature: the American war fubfifted. Under what colours should the Duchess fail, so as to be the furest of protection? CUNNINGHAM, * an American marine adventurer, had just taken one of the Holland packets. Doctor FRANKLIN, then at Paris, was furrounded by a fwarm of his countrymen, who only

This man was merely an instrument. The project of capturing the Packet, was suggested by a Mr. Carmichael, an American assistant to Doctor Franklin, and afterwards "Chargé des Assaires," from the United States, at Madrid. The packet which Cunningham was directed to take, had a quantity of specie on board. Cunningham, by an Irish blunder, let that packet escape, and captured another which sad only a cargo of passengers. Thus the object was deseated.

wished for commissions to rove about the Channel. The intention of the Duchess to embark, could not be concealed, nor the time of her failing. The capture of her ship. was confidered as an enterprize worth attempting. It was supposed, that any sum demanded, would be paid for her ranfom. Apprifed that fuch idea prevailed, the Duchess applied, by letter, to the French Minister, foliciting protection under the colours of France. Her request being granted, Captain HARDING was informed of her intentions to hoift the French flag, and have her ship manned by French sailors. Harding had ferved in the British navy, had diftinguished himself in action, was a brother of the Trinity House; he felt himself a Briton, and, as fuch, failed into Calais Harbour under English colours; this she happened to fee from her observatory, in company with Monsieur Bienassize (the commandant of Calais) and some others; she burst into a rage, exclaiming vehemently against the Captain for the infult, and immediately gave orders that the paltry colours should .G 2

fhould be taken down, and a French flag displayed; for till then she would not set her foot on board.—This whim complied with, the English colours were brought to her house, and there ridiculously destroyed, saying, "This country shall never be disgraced by such a paltry slag." The yacht being safely moored, the Duches immediately went on board, conducted by Harding, and went through every apartment, which seemed to give her satisfaction; but not a syllable was mentioned about the colours.

A few days elapsed in seeming tranquillity; the next business was to settle the Captain's accounts, when, to her eternal shame, all extra expences he had been at in entertaining her friends, while the ship was building at Limehouse, were disallowed. The Captain, in hopes at a future time to meet with her in better humour, acquiesced, and a mutual balance was struck. The Duchess having accomplished her favorite end in money manners, then announced having engaged a French captain (Lesevre) and if Harding chose to be continued, he must submit

submit to a deduction of 1001. a year; in this case he might have the joint command: this measure he could not relish: the Duchefs, however, foothed him with great promifes of her interest in his favor with the Empress of Russia; he swallowed the bait, and, with fome reluctance, complied .- French failors were then procured; but no fooner were they engaged for the voyage, than they threw an obstacle in the way-there was no alternative-Lefevre's acceptance and nomination, a French crew, rendered Harding's fituation too mortifying to be endured; the confequence was, he religned his employ under the Duchefs, and quitted Calais for Dover, where his family refided; he then, upon a moderate calculation, found himself a loser of not less than 6col. by having thrown off an honorable and lucrative employ, when he first engaged with the Duchess; - the consequence was a depression of spirits, which in the vale of life, being unable to furmount, he at last expired with a broken heart .- This was her reward to a man who had discharged

G 3

his duty with the strictest fidelity. He it was who had been entrusted to convey her personal property of the greatest value out of England, and afterwards from Rome; his final reward was to have the master of a fishing-boat appointed his captain.

On her proposed voyage to Petersburgh, the Duchefs was to be accompanied by feveral persons, besides domestics, who were collectively to form a fuite proper for an exalted personage, about to visit a sovereign power. The arrangement of this fuite depending, of course, on the will of the Duchess, a whimfical affemblage of characters were blended. The Captain and Sailors of the ship being Frenchmen and Roman Catholics, a Chaplain of their language and persuasion was required, to perform the pious offices necessary for the welfare of their fouls. To be supplied in this particular, the Duchess dispatched a letter to Paris, soliciting a Lady to recommend an Ecclefiaftic, proper for the purpose. Among the different orders it was not a difficult matter to meet with a Priest of the Order of Necessity; and,

would embark on so singular an expedition, the choice fell on Monsieur L'Abbé Sechand*. Highly flattered by his appointment, a messenger was dispatched to Calais, with information that the Abbé would set out for that place immediately. The Duches, to whom a new face, and a novel adventure, afforded great delight, received the glad tidings with a joyful countenance; imparting to every visitor the elevated ideas she had formed of a person, whom she had never seen, and, for whose transcendant abilities she vouched, in a most authoritative style, without being morally certain.

*This gentleman, after scambling his way, as it were, from Petersburgh to France, soon afterwards came to London, and now resides in the vicinity. His claim on the Duchess, like that of most other persons who had the meritorious pretension of relying on ber pramises, is not yet settled, and most probably it never will. When pressed to adjust it, she always afferted that she had paid him; but, he put the matter fairly to issue, by saying, that is she could produce a voucher for the payment of a single sous, he would abandon his demand. This she was not able to do.

that

that his mental endowments exceeded those of a common mechanic. At last, Monsteur l'Abbé arrived; for the fake of convenience, not much troubled with baggage, the Diligence being his carriage, and a violin his travelling companion. As this gentleman had the care of the fouls of the Captain and mariners committed to his charge, to Mr. Foster was entrusted the direction of the Duchess in spirituals. Two women, as attendants, a coachman at fea, and a footman in a cabin, completed their marine fuite. with which the Duchels failed for Peterfburgh. To fay that she was grossly flattered on undertaking the expedition, would only be faying, that she was supposed to abound in wealth; for where is the rich without a flatterer? The voyage of the Duchess was compared to the expedition of Cleopatra; a Marc Anthony only was wanting to render the comparison perfect.

Favoured by a wind which blew as the wishes of the Duches inclined, she arrived at *Elsineur* in twelve days from the time of her leaving Calais; and, delaying as little

as circumstances would permit, on her passage, she soon reached Petersburgh. Her arrival being announced, her reception was certainly favourable*; the Empress dispensed with

* This favourable reception was caused by various concomitant circumstances. To be received, if possible, by some crowned head, was an object desirable, as the only means of relieving the Duchess from the marked disgrace which her trial and conviction had assisted on her. The Court of Russia was chosen as the most distant; as the less likely to have the real character of the lady bared to inspection; and where considerable presents of pictures would be more acceptable to the Sovereign, in proportion as the arts were in a less advanced state of perfection. Accordingly, not only the Empress, but personages of the greatest insuence, were complimented by the Duchess. One instance, and an anecdote accompanying it, will exemplify the views and liberality of the donor.

Count Chernichoff was represented to the Duchess as an exalted character, to whom she ought, in policy, to pay her particular devoirs. She felt the force of the representation, and sent him two pictures. As little skilled in painting, as in music, she was a total stranger to the value of these pieces. They happened to be originals, by Raphael, and Claude Lorrain. The Count was soon apprized of this; and on the arrival

with public forms, the interview between her Majesty and the Duchess being at the country palace, appropriated to the pur-

of the Duchess at Petersburgh, he waited on her Grace; professed his thankfulness for the present, at the same time affuring the Duchess, " That the pictures were estimated at a value, in Russian money, " amounting to ten thousand pounds English." The Duchess, who the moment before he let this secret escape from his lips, had arranged her features with a fmile of complacency, instantly changed colour, and could, with the utmost difficulty, veil her chagrin. She told the Count, that " fhe had other pictures, which she should consider as an honour were he to " accept them. That the two paintings in his pos-" fession, were particularly the favourites of her dese parted Lord; but that the Count was extremely gra-*6 cious in permitting them to occupy a fpace in his so palace, until her mansion was properly prepared " for decoration." This manœuvre did not succeed. The Count has the pictures at this moment; and the Duchess, in her will, has actually introduced an history of the manner in which they became possessed by Count Chernichoff; referring, at the same time, to the testimony of a Mr. Moreau, in proof of the paintings having been only committed to the care of the Count, in truft. Here is a trait, and a singular one it is, fufficient to mark the character of the heroine, whose narrative is the subject of these pages.

poles

poses of seclusion. The novelty of an English lady, braving the billows of the Baltic, and defying, as it were, the boifterous elements of the North, to pay a compliment to the reigning Sovereign, excited admiration in many, curiofity in all. This very curiofity and admiration were fufficient for the Duchess; gratifying her vanity, they compensated her toils. Still more, The Empress affigned a mansion for her residence. Her ship was commanded under the Government care; and an hurricane arifing which occasioned it to suffer confiderable damage, it was repaired by express order of the Empress. Here was happinels, if happinels for a mind at variance with itfelf, could be found on earth. this marked favour of the Empress could not entirely fatisfy the Duchess. She was, and she felt herself to be an alien. The English Ambassador could only be complaifant to her in private *. She, therefore, began ble late conduct, as an Ambalalor of Daited Stands of Bollows Bark and garolly

^{*} At that time Sir James Harris; who, because only externally civil, the Duchess affected to contemp, for G 6

began to inquire, whether possession might not entitle her to command that respect, for which, at prefent, she was merely an eleemofynary debtor. There are ladies at the Court of Petersburgh, who wear the pitture of the Empress, as the enfign of an order. The Duchess was flattered, that landed property only was wanting to introduce her as one of this order. The Empress was her friend; what other interest could the defire? The hint was fufficient. She purchased an estate near Petersburgh, for about twelve thousand pounds; gave it the name of Chudleigh, and, having executed her part of the agreement, which always was to pay, and leave others to enjoy, she

the parfimonious manner in which he entertained the factory. Lady Harris did not, of course, escape an oblique censure, when opportunity of casting it occurred. Sir James, at the Court of Petersburgh, was in high estimation. That, as an able representative of Sovereign power, and a profound politician, he merited esteem, his late conduct, as an Ambassador to the United States of Holland, hath abundantly evidenced. By being ennobled, he hath only obtained the honours he deserved.

pushed her interest to be honoured with the order. The answer to her application for ever blafted her hopes. It was an invariable rule that foreigners could not be admitted. -What was to be done with the effate? Beside catching fish, and cutting down wood, it promifed not to turn to any advantageous account. The Duchefs, however, ever disposed to be missed when flattered by following her own inclination, was induced to believe, that a fortune, which she did not want, might be obtained by a means which she had not occasion to use, which was, the erection of works for making BRANDY. This was a whimfical transition of ideas, and fuch as could not easily be reconciled by an ordinary mind. A distiller of spirits, instead of the wearer of a pendent order of the picture of an Empress!

This disappointment in ambition, and, a final dislike of the distillery project, occafioned a resolution to return to Calais. Disputes in the household had also arisen, which
caused this resolution to be more determined than ordinary. The salary of Mr.

FOSTER,

Foster, a miserable pittance for a man of learning, being only one bundred pounds a year, was in arrears. Years and merit pleaded in vain. A trifle was the subject of dispute, and the Empress being informed of it, offered poor Foster a retreat for life, and he quitted the Duchess with this farcasm, in the Spartan style, " I am old, ce not mean." SECHAND next broke forth with vehemence. He had received more promises than there are numbers in the lottery, and not one of them had produced a prize. His falary was in arrears, and payment was formally demanded; agents on both fides interfered, but without effecting any thing. The Abbé, therefore, was left to feek his redress in France, and to get thither as well as his fortunate stars would affift him.

The Duchess, quitting Petersburgh, lest an English journeyman carpenter*, whom

This man was picked up, like most of the inferior officers of her household, by that species of accident which always recommended vagabonds to her notice.

the had made the steward of her household. to transact her affairs. At her brandy-making estate, in the country, another character, of fimilar description, as to lowness, was stationed. She had likewise picked up at Calais, when she went to Germany, a fellow who pretended to be a Colonel in the Imperial fervice, and who wanted to get to his wife and children at Vienna .- The Duchess took him with her: fhe accommodated him with a watch, as a loan, and also some rings and some cash: he took French leave at Munich, on hearing that prince Radziville was there, not wishing to fee the prince,-The Colonel's name was Lienverville; his being in the Imperial fervice was a fiction: -his regiment was in the fervice of the King of Poland, to which country he immediately fet off, which he was enabled to do by disposingof the watch and rings. Prince Radziville

By trade an ordinary carpenter; by her ridiculous whim converted into the managing steward of a palace, and, in her absence from Petersburgh, entrusted with the care of personal property, of immense value.

at this time was a refugee in Bavaria; to this country he had fled, having formed a grand confederacy in Poland, for which a large fum was offered for his head. He appeared at Munich in a rich Turkish dress, and being a man of large stature, made a noble appearance: he had a faithful friend and companion, a Polish Count, his constant attendant during his exile. The Prince travelled with a chosen guard of troops called Heyduks, richly caparisoned, eight of whom every night mounted guard in the room adjoining to the chamber where he slept. He afterwards made a submission to the King of Poland, and returned to that country.

Returning once more to Calais, a confiderable portion of time was engrossed by the Duchess, in relating to her admiring auditors each particular concerning the very gracious manner in which the Empress had deigned to receive her. A present from her Imperial Majesty, of an estate* situated on the Neva, was enlarged on with all the

^{*} This estate includes a tract of land of considerable value; and, it was the more peculiarly calculated for

circumlocutory eloquence, of which the relator was capable. The purchase* also of the estate near Petersburgh, which abounded in vaffals, not daring to approach the upper petticoat of their mistress, without first kissing the fringe, in a posture of genuflection, afforded a fubject for aftonishment to those who despised all compulsory subjection. Yet complaifance was due, and, in confequence, the tale of vanity was never interrupted. The Empress was admitted to be the dearest friend whom the Duchefs had experienced. She was allowed even to love her, better than any favourite who might be felected, as the object of regard, by a Sovereign, less a model of felf-denying virtue, than her Imperial Majesty of Russia. Not a scruple of faith was abated, in the credence given to every fentence which the Duchess advanced respect-

the Duches, as it conferred a kind of sovereignty on her over the poor inhabitants, who are considered as absolute property, vested in the territorial proprietor.

^{*} This effecte cost the Duchess about twenty-five

ing her intimacy with the Empress. One thing is certain: At an entertainment given by the Duchess to the Empress, one bundred and forty of her own domestics attended, and the whole service was of plate. The presence of so august a personage, and the manner of her reception, are unquestionable proofs of benignity on one part, oftentation on the other.

The will of his Grace of Kingston receiving every confirmation which the Courts of Justice could give *; to dissipate, rather than

This will was executed on the fifth day of July, 1770. The following are the extracts which relate to the Duchefs: "I do, by this my will, ratify and confirm a fettlement, which I made of the annual fum, or or yearly rent charge, of four thousand pounds, on my wife Elizabeth Duchess of Kingston; and that the faid sum shall be unto, and to the use of the faid Elizabeth, Duchess of Kingston, MY WIFE, and her assigns, for and during the term of her natural life, in case she so long continues my widow, and unmarried, and no longer. And my said wise shall be permitted, during her widowhood, to rescive and take the whole yearly rents, and profits, of all the manors, lands, and heredizaments, before

than properly expend, the income of his estates, appeared to be the ruling principle of life. The house at Calais was not sufficient for the purpose of inviting perplexities; a mansion, at a place called *Mont*

" devised, in full satisfaction, recompense, and dis-

" charge of, and for fo much of the faid annual fum,

" or yearly rent charge of four thousand pounds, as

" shall grow due during her widowhood; but in case

my faid wife shall determine her widowhood during ber life, then I give and devise the same to Charles

ber life, then I give and devile the same to Charles

" Meadows, second fon of Philip Meadows.

"ALSO, I give and bequeath to my faid wife, "Elizabeth Duchefs of Kingston, all my furniture,

pidures, plate, jewels, china, arrears of rent, and all

" other my effects and personal estate, of what nature

" or kind foever, for her own proper use absolutely, and as, and for her own goods, chattels, and effects,

" for evermore."

This express restriction, as to a continuance in a state of widowbood, although highly displeasing to the Duchess, was yet her absolute salvation; for, so open was she to the grossest adulation, that any foreign Knight of the Post, plying her well with slattery, might have led her a willing captive to the altar of Hymen. She endeavoured to secrete the circumstance of her inability to marry, always affecting the greatest dislike of the connubial state.

Marthe,

Marthe*, near Paris, was pitched on, and the purchase of it negociated in as short a time as the Duchess could defire. There were only a few obstacles to enjoyment. which were not confidered until the purchase was completed. The house was in so ruinous a condition, as to be in momentary danger of falling. The land was more like the field of the flothful, than the vineyard of the industrious. All these apparent evils became realized to the optics of the Duchess, only after she had possessed her wishes, and found them, as most of her wishes were, productive of trouble. A lawfuit with the owner of the estate was the confequence of the agreement. The Duchess went again to Petersburgh, and returned to France, before it finished; and it was the manner in which this fuit was adjudicated, which proved the ultimate cause tarde to the new P. R. sculaging. of her death.

Befide

^{*} The fituation of this house is extremely pleasant, being to Paris what Hampstead is to London. The Duchess was to have paid for the house about nine thousand pounds in the whole.

Beside this purchase in France, another was made by the Duchess, the scale of which was truly grand. The brother of the French Monarch was the owner of a domain, according, in every respect, with his dignity. This was the territory of Saint Affife, pleasantly diffanced from Paris, abounding with game of every different species, and rich in all the possible luxuriant adornment of nature. The mansion was fit for the brother of a King. It afforded three bundred beds. The value of fuch an estate was too confiderable to be expected in one payment; she, therefore, agreed to discharge the whole of the sum demanded, which was fifty-five thousand pounds, by instalments. It is sometimes easier to agree, than fulfil. The Duchess found this to be her case in the present instance. How was it possible to give the half of a plumb, without the value of a cherry-stone in possession? Sixteen thousand pounds were the utmost amount of the annual rents of the Duchefs. Ready money she had none; it was a commodity in which she seldom abounded.

abounded. To make good the first instalment, recourse was had to the expedient of borrowing cash of Messrs. Drummond; and a few valuables were lodged as securities for the debt; by this means one payment

was made good *.

If it be asked, for whom this estate, thus purchased under every inconvenience, was actually intended, the proper answer returned would be, that to the career of vanity there is not an end; and, whether that passion be gratisted by the expenditure, or the hoard of money, is matter of total indifference, the fordidness of the passion continuing the same. It being, necessary, however, to assign a little portion of reason for a great degree of extravagance, the recent reconciliation which had taken place between the Duchess and the nephew of her dearest Duke," afforded a plea. The

purchase,

paid, in part of the purchase money, for this territory. The second instalment is, at this moment, due. The annual income of Saint Assis, is estimated at near three thousand paunds.

purchase, on the part of the Duchess, was a good one.—There were not only game, but rabbits in plenty; and finding them of a superior quality and flavour, the Duchess, during the first week of her possession, had as many killed and sold, as brought her three bundred guineas. Thus at Petersburgh, she was a distiller of brandy*; at Paris a rabbit-merchant.

Thus proceeding from enterprize to enterprize, the hour approached in which the Duchess would no longer be permitted to continue a resident of our lower world. She was at dinner when she received the intelligence of a sentence respecting the house near

^{*} By permission of the Empress, one of the Russian estates purchased by the Duchess was called Chudleigh; and about ten miles from this place, she built an Iun, for the reception and accommodation of strangers. Here, a liquor, which the Russians call watkeq, was fold. It is made from barley, mixed with certain plants, and, when distilled, the sumes of it are of the most intoxicating kind. The project of the Duchess was, to have made the liquor on her own estate, and to have supplied the Inn with it. The Russian names of her territory are, Willa and Acoss.

Paris, having been awarded against her. The fudden communication of the news caused an agitation of her whole frame. She flew into a violent passion, and, in the agitation of her mind and body, she burst an internal blood-veffel; even this, however, she appeared to have furmounted, until a few days afterwards, on the morning of the 26th of August; when, about to rise from her bed, a fervant who had long been with her, endeavoured at diffuation. The Duchess addreffed her thus: "I am not very well, " but I will rife." On a remonstrance being attempted, she faid, "At your peril " disobey me; I will get up, and walk or about the room. Ring for the Secretary " to affift me." She was obeyed, dreffed, and the Secretary entered the chamber. The Duchess then walked about; complained of thirst, and faid, "I could drink " a glass of my fine Madeira, and eat a " flice of toasted bread. I shall be quite well afterwards; but let it be a large glass " of wine." The attendant reluctantly brought, and the Duchess drank the wine.

She then faid, "I am perfectly recovered; " I knew the Madeira would do me good. " My heart feels oddly. I will have ano-" ther glass." The fervant here observed, that fuch a quantity of wine, drank in the morning, might intoxicate rather than benefit. The Duchess persisted in her orders, and the fecond glass of Madeira being produced, she drank that also, and pronounced herself to be charmingly indeed. She then walked a little about the room, and afterwards faid, "I will lay on the couch. I " can fleep, and after a fleep, I shall be " entirely recovered." She fat on the couch, a female having hold of each hand. In this fituation, she foon appeared to have fallen into a found fleep, until the woman found her hands colder than ordinary; an affright enfued; other domestics were rang for, and the Duchess was found to have expired, as the wearied labourer finks into the arms of reft.

Thus died ELIZABETH CHUD-LEIGH, actually Counters of Bristol, and, by the curtesy of foreign nations, styled H DUCHESS

DUCHESS of KINGSTON. She was a woman, the leading features of whose character are more discoverable from a review of her conduct, than from any delineation in the power of the pen to give. If she might be allowed to know herfelf, her own description of the mutability of her nature should pass for the truth. Her words were these: "I should detest myself, if I were " two bours in the same temper." What she faid, she verified; for she was alternately changing from humour to humour. This instability it was which, in the early part of life, occasioned her to be surrounded more with admirers, than friends; and from the hour of her conviction, to the moment of her death, she had not one friend attached to her from a principle of cordial esteem. The Empress of Russia was much disposed to favour her; but, after the novelty of the meeting was over, there was even too much of fameness in the interviews with her Majesty, to be endured. Those to whom the Duchess shewed any thing like steadiness, were companions of her own felection, felection, and she was ever sure to err most grossly in her choice. Her benefits, and her friendships, were bestowed on the unworthy. Of the latter affertion, the following anecdote is a proof:

In one of her peregrinations, the Duchess met with a person, habited as a pilgrim. His figure was a good one. In his eye there was penetration, and in the whole of his countenance there was marked expreffion. He was much inclined to cultivate an intimacy with the Duchess; but he rather chose to correspond, than converse with her. This arose from a consciousness of a brilliancy of style of which he was master; and, instantly perceiving how open to flattery the lady was, he thought it could be more delicately conveyed in an epiftolary way. He carried his point-Left her Grace, when she strongly solicited him to remain with her. The correspondence commenced. The letters teemed with profeffions of admiration of fo illustrious a character as the Duchefs. She was more than woman! The wonder of the age! and de-

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ferving celebrity to the end of time! This incense was the more acceptable, because offered by a total stranger. Her Grace became enamoured with the pilgrim, and, as there was something of mystery in his manner and garb, she was folicitous to have the whole explained. This favour, however, was denied, and the only thing which the could obtain was, an appointment to meet her at a future time. The correspondence, in the interim, continued; and the letters were in the same adulatory vein. The appointed time arrived; and the Duchess, instead of a Pilgrim, met an Abbé. It then became necessary to throw the veil a little aside. The stranger gave an account of himfelf, and thus ran his ftory: That he was by birth an Albanian Prince. That he had travelled through Europe, under different difguifes, and had only formed attachments with the most exalted personages. At Berlin, Prince Henry of Prussia had honoured him with his intimacy; at Rome, most of the Cardinals were his familiars; their Neapolitan Maiefties iefties particularly efteemed him; and with the Emperor of Germany, he was most intimate! This style was the very thing. It operated like a charm. The name of the franger was required; and he announced his travelling one to be "WORTA." Who Worta really was, the Duchess never inquired. She took it on truft that he was a very great man; and as for his honesty, it was a quality entirely out of the question. The diamond box was exhibited to Wor-TA, and he admired as the Duchess directed. A ring of value was presented him; and he being a prince, it was deemed very gracious in him to accept it. At last, the object in view was disclosed. WORTA having fatisfied himfelf with the vifits he made to the different Courts of the reigning Powers, proposed returning to his own country; and could his bed be honoured with a partner like the Duchess, a scene of connubial felicity would be completed. To this language the Duchess listened with infinite pleasure; and, had there not been an infurmountable obstacle, she actually would

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would have given her hand and fortune to an adventurer. This Worta very lately committed several forgeries in Holland, and being apprehended, he dispatched himfelf by a dose of poison*.

As a contrast to this instance of imposture, and credulity, there was a real Prince,

* WORTA, whoever he might be, was entitled to praise, as a man of talents. During the contest between Great Britain and America, he wrote feveral little pieces, in support of what he termed " The ho-" nourable cause of les pauvres Americains." Beside this subject, there is a small tract by WORTA, entitled, " L'Horoscope Politique." In this he extols the character of Prince Henry of Prussia, whom he styles his dear and intimate friend. There is also another fmall production, containing a felection of Poetic Pieces, professedly translated from a Turkish author, but really written by WORTA. His language, in profe, is energetic in the extreme; in poetry, it is mellifluous, and full of tenderness. He had certainly stong feelings, and a very superior understanding. To each of his publications, there is an engraving of himfelf prefixed, which is encircled by ftars, and rays, from a fmall represented fun, darting on the top of his head. He was, altogether, a most extraordinary character.

who made the Duchess an offer of his hand. and that after an attachment which had fubfifted twenty years. On a vifit to the Court of Saxony, the Duchels first met PRINCE RADZIVIL, an illustrious personage, who had pretenfions to the Crown of Poland *. This high character lived in a style of dignified folendor, which excited the admiration of those who knew not the amount of his immense revenues. The Duchess, fruck with the grandeur of his state, practifed every ingratiating art which might attract effeem. In this, the proved fo fuccessful, as to engage the heart of the Prince in her favour. This was all fhe wanted; for, the confequences of the engagement were, magnificent prefents, and a correspondence carried on, during a fuccession of years. When the Duchess was about to make a fecond visit to Petersburgh, proposing to travel thither by land, the fignified, in a letter to PRINCE RADzivit, her intention of taking his domi-

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nions.

^{*} This illustrious Pole is now living, and about fixty-five years of age.

nions in her route. The Prince, the force of whose affection had not been abated by time, received the determination as an announcement of his approaching happiness. The place of meeting was fixed, and, as there was something singularly romantic in the style in which the interview was conducted, a description of it, as detailed by a foreign gentleman, who was of the party, may not prove unentertaining to the reader.

BERGE, a village in a duchy belonging to PRINCE RADZIVIL, was affigned for the rendezvous. It is fituated about forty miles from Riga. The Duchess being there arrived, was waited on by an officer in the retinue of the Prince, who was commiffioned to inform her Grace, that his mafter proposed to dispense with the ceremonials of rank, and visit her as a friend. The next morning was the time specified for this visit taking place. In the interim, the Duchess was entreated to permit herself to be escorted to an hotel, ten miles distant, whither the Prince had dispatched his own cooks, and other attendants, to wait on her Grace. A H

Grace. The next morning, the vifit, without ceremony, took place, and thus was it conducted. PRINCE RADZIVIL came with forty carriages, each drawn by fix horses; and the different vehicles contained his nieces, the ladies of his principality, and other illustrious characters. In addition to these, there were six hundred horses led in train, a thousand dogs, and several boars; a guard of Huffars completed the fuite. Such an affemblage, in a country furrounded by wood, gave an air of romance to the interview, which was still more heightened by the manner in which the Prince contrived to amuse his female guest. He made two feasts, and they were ordered in the following style. The Prince had caused a village to be erected, confisting of forty houses, all of wood, and fancifully decorated with leaves and branches. These houses formed a circle; in the middle of which, three spacious rooms were erected, one for the Prince, a fecond for his fuite, and the third for the repast. Entering the village, in the way to the rooms,

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all the houses were shut, and the inhabitants appeared to have retired to rest. The entertainment, at the rooms, opened with splendid sireworks, on an adjoining piece of water, and two vessels encountered each other in a mock engagement. The feast succeeded.—Every thing was served on plate, and sumptuous were the dishes. The Duchess, who was fascinated by a reception so superior so superior sinto the sestion of the evening; and amused the company with the following song:

- " DANS mon petit reduit,
 - " Je vis a mon aise,
- " Je n'ai qu'une table, et un lit,
 " Un verre, et une chaise.
 - " Mais je m'en fert chaque jour,
 - " Pour caresser tour à tour,
 - " Ma peinte et ma mie au guet,

" Ma peinte et ma mie."

The feast being ended, PRINCE RADZI-VIL conducted the Duchess to the village, the houses of which were shut before, and

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on a fudden they were converted into forty open shops, brilliantly decorated, and conraining the richest commodities of different kinds. From these shops the Prince selected a variety of articles, and prefented them to the Duchess. A magnificent topaz, rings, boxes, trinkets of all descriptions, composed the gifts*. The company then returned to the rooms, which were thrown into one, and a ball was opened by Prince Radzivil and the Duchess. The minuets and dances being concluded, the company quitted the ball-room, and in an instant it was in a blaze; combustible matter having been previously disposed throughout every part of the building. The people of the village were feen dancing round the fire. This entertainment, which is unexaggerated in the description, was supposed to have cost Prince RADZIVIL, at a moderate computation, five thousand pounds. The state of the state

His

^{*} The Ducheis, through life, had been accustomed to receive presents; and, a great part of her personal property was acquired in this manner.

His Highness ended not here. At a country feat, ten miles from Niceiffuis, his favourite town, he gave a fecond feaft to the Duchefs. This feaft was followed by a boar hunt; for the purpose of which, his dogs had been brought. The hunt was in a wood, at night. A regiment of Huffars, with lighted torches in their hands, formed a circle; within which were huntimen, alfo with torches. The boar, thus furrounded by fire, was intimidated, and, after the usual foort, he fell a victim to his purfuers. At this hunt attended a numerous party of the Polish nobility. During fourteen days, the time of the Duchess's continuance with Prince Radzivil, she dined and slept in different houses belonging to the Prince. As the retinue moved from place to place, they, on every third or fourth day, met a camp, formed of the Prince's own guard. Travelling at night from Niceiffuis, the roads were illuminated; guards accompanied as escorts, and, on the arrival of the Duchess, at the different towns belonging to the duchy of the Prince, the magistrates waited on her with their gratulations, and the cannon were fired. Here was transporting satisfaction! and yet, such was the oddity of the Duchess, so unique was she in character, mind, and seeling, that, at the moment of her being complimented with a feu de joye, she only thus expressed her sentiments of the princely treatment: "He may fire as much as he pleases, but he shall not hit my mark!" These were her own words; the commentary on them is obvious.

Beside this extraordinary display of magniscence, the Duchess, during her residence in Poland, had also the honour to be entertained by one of the first characters in the theatre of the world. This was Count Oginski*; of whom the late King of Prussia had so exalted an opinion, that he dispatched a letter to him, with the following superscribed orders: "This is to be forwarded to the Ornament of Human "Nature!" Such a compliment, from a

^{*} Count Oginski is now alive, and universally revered.

Sovereign who was not eafily miftaken in characters, must have been highly flattering. But it did not exceed the merits of the COUNT; he was great, in every fense of the word. Beside being the munificent rewarder of talents, and the universal succourer of the diffressed, his accomplishments were of the most endearing kind. At a concert which he gave the Duchefs, he performed on fix different inftruments. His establishment for musical entertainments cost him fifty thousand ducats a year; about twentyfive thousand pounds of our money. He had a theatre, in which plays, in the Erench, German, and Polish languages, were acted. Horses he had from the remotest countries: one, which he shewed the Duchess, was brought him from Jerusalem. With Louis the XVth he had lived on terms of intimacy, residing nine years at the Court of France. He painted inimitably; and, among other articles, the Duchefs faw a piece of his execution, which originated from the following incident: Louis the XVth and the Count were walking in a garden,

garden, and the French Monarch broke off a branch of an apple-tree, in high bloffom, and throwing it at the Count, he faid, "Oginski, you must paint that for me." The Count obeyed; and the demise of the King happening before the picture was sinished, it remained in the possession of the Count. At the mansion of this Nobleman, the Duchess continued a few days; and Prince Radzivil accompanying her there, an emulation seemed to prevail who most should shew her a marked attention*. She

was,

* For the uncommon kindness shewn the Duchess by Prince Radzivil, she professed the greatest gratitude. A patriarchal age of thankfulness would not be long enough to discharge the obligation! At Petersburgh, an opportunity occurred of making a partial return for the favours received. It was as follows:

A favourite niece of Prince Radzivil married an officer in the Ruffian service, with whom she had fallen in love. To obtain his promotion in the army, the happy pair (for the happiness of reciprocal affection was their lot) went to Petersburgh, and there the husband lost, at play, about seven thousand pounds, one thousand of which he paid; but, distressed for the remainder of the sum, the niece of Prince Radzivil solicited

was, however, shackled, as it were, in mind. There was sameness even in princely splendor; and sameness to her was ever disgusting. An Aventurier, like Worta, could have succeeded, where a Prince like RADZIVIL sailed of his point*. The one was a fixed,

licited the Duchess for a loan to the amount; which she absolutely refused, pleading distress; although she abounded in money, and was in high credit.

* In fo heterogeneous a character as that of the lady who is the subject of this detail, it is difficult to difcriminate the propensities, and pronounce how far they are influenced by any genuine motive, or passion. The Duchess had an apparent attachment to a Polish Bishop, the Bishop of Wilna. She also, when at Rome, discovered fomething more than friendship for the Patriarch of Yerusalem. The Bishop of Wilna first saw the Duchess at Rome. He is a most amiable character; but perhaps it was more the vanity of inconfiftency, than any real affection, which actuated the Duchess in her apparent tenderness. To contemn the offers of Prince Radzivil, whom the actually might have married, and have had the loss of her fortune abundantly compensated, and to defire an union where it could not be obtained, was that species of contrariety, which distinguished this lady through life. Perhaps, she is the first Englishwoman who ever went to Jerusalem for a lover!

the other an eccentric character; and eccentricity, in every variation of form or action, accorded most forcibly with her feelings.

The actuating influence of this eccentricity it was, which too generally contaminated the benefits of the Duchefs, by mildirecting them to the most worthless objects. Thus, in the enumeration of her purseleeches, we find that human blood-fucker, MAJOR SEMPLE, whom she liberated from Calais prison; and it was termed, by the undifcerning, an act of generofity. But, the fact is, that the Duchess, hearing of the confinement of the man, declared, in a moment, that she would contrive to have him released; and the method she proposed was, to bribe the prison guards, faw the iron bars of the window of his room, and thus effect an escape. This stratagem busied the Duchess for a week; the creditors of SEMPLE all the time fuppofing that her Grace was calculating the amount of their demands, in order to discharge them. The project of an escape being defeated, the Duchefs

Duchefs found herself to be so embarrassed in the business, that she was compelled to do something to gratify the expectations which her officious interference had raised. A trifle was divided among the creditors, and Mr. Semple was shipped for England, to prosecute his depredations on the honest part of the community.

Of the qualities of the Duchess of Kingston, a kind of masculine courage feemed the most predominant. She had always a brace of loaded piftols by the fide of her bed; and her injunctions to her female domestics were, never to enter her chamber unless the bell rang, as, by fudden furprise she might be induced to fire at them. This she most unquestionably would have done. In her travelling carriage there were fire-arms, and once, on her route to Petersburgh, she discharged a case of pistols at a party supposed to have inimical designs. This heroism, so uncommon in the semale breaft, was inherited by the Duchess, for, her mother, who once refided at Chelsea, walked thither each evening from London, with

with a brace of piftols in her pocket, as the means of her defence.

It was this kind of courage, rather than real magnanimity, which supported the Duchefs under a variety of fufferings. Pending her trial in the House of Peers, her ferocity of spirit broke forth whenever the withdrew from the bar; and, the moment when her conviction was announced, the idea of keeping possession of her property by force, occurred to her mind. Scarcely had the Chancellor concluded his information of her having been adjudged guilty by her Peers, than she turned to Mr. GLOVER, and faid, "You hear that I am " convicted; there are blunderbuffes and " pistols at Kingston House; go there di-" rectly; turn all the fervants out of doors, " and keep possession of the house, for me, " by force." Thus a conviction, under which others would have funk, but little affected the mind of the Lady who is the fubject of this detail; her title, more than her character, engroffed her attention. Her domestics were struck with the absurdity of concontinuing the stile after her conviction, which they had used before that event. They accordingly requested to be informed, how her Grace chose to be designated by them? Her answer was; "Call me Duchess" of Kingston, to be fure."

As in life, fo in death, this lady was eccentric. The day before her demise she ate a brace of partridges, and fome other game; she expired having scarcely swallowed two large bumpers of Madeira. Except an attack at Petersburgh, when an epidemic difease prevailed, and the sever with which she was seized on her return from Rome to meet her trial, she experienced not an illness of a day. The method she took to preferve health, was that of braving every element. The feverest cold neither impeded her journey, nor discomposed her feelings. Fires, in her apartments, were rather in conformity to established usage, than as necessaries for herfelf; and, as a proof of her exemption from all medical rule, she almost totally reversed order in every thing. Late she retired to rest; early the

the arofe. For a flight indication of the gout, the inftantly plunged her feet in cold water; and phlebotomy, whether proper or not, was the univerfal recipe to which, on every indication of malady, the reforted.

Living, as did the Duchess in the early period of her life, within the Court circle, her exterior manners had a polish, and her actions, when she chose it, a grace. When the funshine of good humour exhilarated her spirits, there was brilliancy in every thing she did; but, as she could be fascinating, the reverse was too much in her power, and too frequently in her inclination. Viewed fuperficially, and, by a transient acquaintance, she appeared irrefistibly attractive; an intimacy diffolved the charm, and even her most partial admirers could only feel a pity, that the powers of eminently pleafing, should not be united with internal worth. This deficiency it was which rendered her promises not to be relied on. They were merely thrown out as lures, without any ferious intention of ever performing them. Hence, her friends, as fhe

the termed them, were changed like her garments; and the only permanent attachments she had, were to those whom she seldom faw. It served her for an amusement, on a iourney, to dictate letters to former acquaintances; and whether they lived in Saxony, Pruffia, Poland, Peterfburgh, Italy, or England, they were all complimented as being the exclusive engroffers of her esteem. On her trial ending, she instantly dictated two letters, the one to his Prussian Majesty, the other to the Empress of Russia. In both these epistles, the Sovereigns to whom they were addressed, were her "dearest se friends, on whom alone she relied, under "God, for consolation in her afflictions. " She was overwhelmed, like poor DAVID, " by troubles, but there were Princes grase ciously inclined also, like DAVID, to succour the oppressed!" This was to excite pity. FREDERIC, in return, offered Berlin as an afylum, and intimation was given, by the Prussian Minister, "That her pro-" perty, if transmitted to the capital of his " master's dominions, would be perfectly " fecure."

" fecure." Probably she thought that this would be too literally the case; for, after receiving the intimation, and expressing her very grateful sense of the favour, she thus expressed herself to an English friend; "The "King of Prussia is devilishly clever, but I "shall not trust him." For her Imperial Majesty, the Duchess affected the greatest predilection. If she really had any, sameness of sex, and other according principles, might be the cause.

Profuse as the Duchess was in promises, they naturally occasioned her to be surrounded with expectants. These she always disgusted by disappointing them, and they either became enemies, or indifferents. Those whom she actually benefited, could not cordially esteem her, there being too frequently something intermingled with the favours conferred, to render it more than suspicious that they were not the genuine emanations of a liberal mind. The brother of Sir George Shuckburgh her Grace had adopted. The naval line he chose to pursue. Becoming a Lieutenant, it fell

to his lot, by what is termed the " fortune " of war," to be taken a prisoner in the action with PAUL JONES. The confinement, and other circumstances, conspiring, occasioned an illness, which terminated in a dropfy. Recovering fufficiently to undertake the journey, he paid the Duchess a visit at Calais. She received him very cordially; introduced him to the French officers as a prodigy of courage; took care to have it known that he was a younger brother, without any fortune, and whose dependence was on her only. His illness was next deplored, and the means of an effectual recovery were deliberated on. The air near Calais was thought more falutary than that in the town; the Duchess, therefore, proposed it to Mr. Shuckburgh to have an apartment prepared for his immediate reception. He confented, and was conveyed to the house which her Grace had selected for his accommodation. The reader will judge of his feelings, when he is informed, that the carriage absolutely stopped at an HOSPITAL! and the defignated apartment

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was a small room, the walls of which were plastered. A female nurse was to have been the only attendant: and the Duchess, who had a peculiar turn for amplification, enumerated the advantages of the situation to each of her visitants. Mr. Shuckburgh was so affected, that it became his only consideration how he might frame some plausible excuse to return to England. He effected his purpose by getting a friend to write to him, and press it as a matter of moment to his professional interest, to present himself, as soon as possible, at the Admiralty.

This mode of providing for the cure of an invalid was not more fingular than the manner which the Duchess took to promote the fortunes of her friends in health. Two instances, out of a thousand choice ones, shall suffice.

The eldest son of the President Cocove had been selected by the Duchess to accompany her to Rome. He had borne a commission in the guards of the French Monarch. On the journey to and from Rome

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he was every thing that respectful attention could dictate. The Duchess professed the greatest fensibility of his kindness, called him her fon, and promifed to advance his fortune. He afterwards accompanied her Grace to Petersburgh, and, at the expiration of feven years attendance, the Duchefs one morning thus addressed him: "Cocove, my fortune I only prize as it " gives me the opportunity of making others " bappy. I love you as a fon, and I will er put twenty thousand pounds in your " pocket! That, I think, should content " you."-Mr. Cocove replied, " It most " affuredly would;" and he only wished to know the means of acquiring fuch a fum. The Duchefs explained herfelf thus: " I " will write to Vergennes, my friend, and e get him to obtain for you a confiderable " grant of land between Calais and Dunkirk. " It is a foil fit for the growth of Scotch firs. I will be at the expence of planting, " and, in about thirty or forty years, " the plantation will produce a fortune." Here was generofity with a vengeance! Hope

Hope was first artfully raised by the hand of slattery, then unseelingly depressed by that of disappointment.

The fifter of the gentleman thus treated is the fecond instance intended to be adduced. She was married, and had a numerous offfpring. The Duchefs requested this lady to be of her party to Petersburgh, which was confidered by her Grace merely as an excursion from London to Hampton Court. The husband hesitated, for he loved his children; the wife required a little time to confider, for the dreaded the inclemency of the northern elements. At last feelings yielded to promifes, and the invitation was accepted. The Duchess, and her female friend, as she then termed her, set out for Petersburgh. Arriving there, the ductility of disposition and engaging manners, before affumed, were all laid afide, and nature appeared in her genuine colours. Under a pretence of guarding the honour of the lady, the Duchefs, as the conversator of her connubial chaftity, had her locked

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up for forty-one days, and would have prolonged her incarceration, had she not contrived the means of escaping to the French Ambassador, from whom she obtained money to desray the expence of her return to her native country. This lady only accompanied the Duchess on the faith of her promises to make her and her family bappy during the remainder of their lives. It was thus with almost every person to whom she should engaged by any solemn pledge of her honour. Is it surprising that she should have lived and died without friends to solace and lament her?

Some of the habits of the Duches have been before alluded to. They were all, when a purpose was not to be answered, under the dictation of the moment of feeling. That which would have startled others, gratistied, rather than incommoded, her Grace. What appetite required she indulged, and vain were contrary remonstrances. In the little of disease which she experienced, the recommendation of physicians was disregarded. Sir Cliston Wintengham

tringham once strongly requested the Duchess to live a little more abstemiously. It was in the afternoon, and she patiently endured him. The evening passed with a symptomatic sever, and, at three o'clock in the morning after his advice, she called him a fool, said, "The stomach was made "to be filled," and ordered a capon to be roasted for her supper. Previous to her trial she swallowed strong emetics, for the purpose of realizing an illness which she had assumed; when the purpose was answered, she ate heartily, and laughed at the deception.

External delicacy is supposed to be peculiarly annexed, as an habit, to a certain rank in life. The Duchess was indisputably entitled to elevated rank; but, many of her habits were such as would cause the vulgar to blush, from their not having been initiated in the mysteries of fashionable breeding. If at table, and with company, the Duchess happened accidentally to swallow a tainted oysler, with the utmost coolness she called for a receiver, threw it off her I 3 stomach,

ftomach, and piously thanked her Maker for being so much better.

Her idea, like that of Doctor LAST, was to get rid of an enemy by every poffible evacuation. Even time, place, or convenience, were not confidered, if the enemy were preffing. An instance of this occurred at Petersburgh; which gave rise to lampoons in every house in that capital. The Duchefs ftopped, one morning at the shop of a cabinet-maker, to look, as was her custom, at the various articles he had for fale. In a particular apartment there was a piece of furniture, commodious for the purpose her Grace wanted; she fent the mafter of the shop on a frivolous commisfion, and paid her devoirs as nature directed: on his return, all things were, as he left them, in a covered state, and the Duchess retired with a promife to honor him with her favors at a future time. It was the feafon of fummer, when exhalations are powerful, and the cabinet-maker had the fense of smelling in perfection. He traced the effect to the proper cause, and he waited

waited on the Duchefs to inform her, that fhe had fo damaged the piece of furniture as to induce him to hope she would purchase it. This she refused, and the refusal induced him, out of revenge, to discover the circumstance. It circulated through Petersburgh, and reached the ears of the Emprefs, who laughed most heartily at the transaction; of which the Duchess being apprifed, she fent for the cabinet-maker, and paid him the price which he demanded for the utenfil-

Habits, manners, and principles, compose the fum of life, and render the subject of them estimable or obnoxious. In what point of view the Duchess of Kingston was lately beheld, and is now confidered, may be known by her living almost friendless, and dying unregretted. The rights of fepulture are withheld her; for she, at this moment lieth an outcast, suspended between Earth and Heaven. Not a relative anxious. for her honourable interment; not an executor difinterested enough to have her remains oblivioned by the dust; not a tear I4

thed!

shed on account of her departure; not an heart affected by her loss. The few enquiries made, are directed folely to the nature of her will; and the struggle is, not about the respect to her memory, but the division of her property. That it was immense, notwithstanding artful reports to the contrary, the bequefts, in the form of testamental papers, will evince. Those testamental papers, with some elucidatory notes, are here subjoined. The reader, in perusing them, if a female, should not be dazzled by an inventory of fplendid property; fhe fhould rather be taught to difdain poffessions, improperly acquired, when she perceives a character, like the Duchess OF KINGSTON, through life abounding, yet poor amidst abundance; and, although constantly in the pursuit of happiness, to the last destitute of that internal peace, which virtue and religion only can impart.

Printed literally and verbally from the Original.

TRANSLATED from the French.

In Piece TESTAMENT of her Grace (her Highness) the Duchess of Kingston made the 7th day of October, 1786.

Within the cover is writtens

Land called the or the*

and Piece THIS is the last will and testament of me the most noble Elizabeth Duchess of Kingston in England Countess of Warth in the Electorate of Bavaria and Duchess of Kingston in Russia daughter of the late Colonel Thomas Chudleigh.

What is meant by this prefatory fentence, is impossible to conjecture. Nor can it be otherwise reconciled, than by remarking, that as the whole of the
will is a jumble of inconsistencies, the introduction is
of a piece with the rest.

of

(178)

of Hall in the parish of Harford in the county of Devon and of his wife Harriet daughter of Chudleigh Esq. of Chalmington in the county of Dorset: which I make in manner following

Vizt

I give leave and bequeath all that house and land situate at Knightsbridge in the parish of Saint Margaret Westminster called Kingston House together with the Gardens and all the Fields purchased of Mr. Swinhoe with all the appurte-

A* nances unto

his heirs and affigns for the perpetual use of the said A his heirs and affigns and all that piece of land and field called Dairy Fields which is held on a long lease of Mr. Swinhoe whereof there

This bequest to Mr. "A," is a very handsome one, and it is a pity that alphabetical gentleman, as well as his near relation, Mr. "B," should have so effentially ill treated the Duchess, as to induce her, as she afterwards doth, to transfer her bounty to persons more deserving.

are already thirty years expired unto the faid A his executors adminifrators and affigns for all the remainder of the term yet to come and unexpired and all other lands and tenements fituate near the faid house and the estate thereunto belonging and not otherwise disposed of by this present act unto the faid A.

his administrators and affigns he and they paying out of the revenue thereof to Margaret Cramont daughter of Captain Cramont formerly one of Aid de Camp of General Oglethorpe an annual rent of one hundred pounds during her life with which I hereby charge the faid house land and estate and I give her the fame power of entry and feifin in case of non-payment for six months as is cuftomary with respect to common rent charges bequeathed on real effates; the first fix months payment to be made on the first quarter day on which rents are: usually paid which shall happen immediately after my decease.

I give leave and bequeath the two fields

or pieces of land situate between the land called the Duke of Rutland's land and the B garden belonging to Kingston House unto his heirs and affigns. for the perpetual use of the said B

his heirs and affigns

I give leave and bequeath all the field or piece of land one part whereof is a kitchen garden situate between Kingston House and a house or farm and land now

L used as a boarding-school unto his heirs and affigns for the perpetual use of the faid L his heirs and affigns And I give and bequeath all the furniture pictures china household linen fire-arms kitchen and garden copper utenfils and other things belonging to the faid house kitchen garden stables coachhouses and other buildings unto the faid

his executors administrators and affigns unto whom I have given the faid house.

I give leave and bequeath all that capital house hen-houses farm and domain ground and other lands meadows and

pasture

pasture grounds called Hall situate in the parish of Harford in the county of Devon and all those houses lands and farms with their appurtenances called: Luks Landford Barn and Dards Tenements in the faid parish of Harford, containing one hundred and twenty acres. of land or thereabouts with their appurtenances and dependencies and the ruined cottage and meadow called Oddacombe Meadow containing one acres. of land and two other cottages houses. places and gardens with their dependencies formerly in the possession of John Worth or his tenant, one other cottage garden and inclosure in the possession of Thomas Pierce and likewise one moiety of the Lordship of Harford and a moiety of the right of patronage of the parish church of Harford and of the Marsh called Harford Marsh and all the other Estates now in my possession in the county of Devon with all the appurtenances and appendages (subject to an annual payment of fifty pounds from me to Mrs. Mason during her life who has .

has lived in my house called Hall in different circumstances and has received the said rent-charge for several years and which is still paid to her and for which I charge my estates in the county of Devon and give to her the same power to be paid in the same manner as I have directed for the rent-charge herein above given to Margaret Cramond) unto Sir George Shuckburgh Baronet Sir Richard Heron and George Payne of Brooklands in the county of Surry Esq. their heirs and assigns with power to transfer the same to the use of

during his life and after his decease to the use of the first second and other sons successively of the said in the male line and in default of male heirs of the said C or in case of there being any they should happen to die before the age of twenty one years then to the use of during his life and after his

decease to the use of the first second or any other son of the said P successively in the male line and in default of male issue of the said P. or in case

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there should be any and that they should happen to die before the age of twenty one years then to the use of the Revd. John Penrose Clerk of Fieldborough in the county of Nottingham during his life and after his decease for the use of the first fecond and every other male child of the faid John Penrofe succesfively and in default of male iffue of the faid John Penrose or in case there should be any and that they should happen to die before the age of twentyone years then to the use of the Revd. John Donisthorne of Corkney in the faid county of Nottingham his heirs and affigns and I do hereby order that all and every person or persons unto whom I have bequeathed my faid estates in the county of Devon* shall be obliged to take the furname and arms of Chudleigh as foon as they shall have taken possession thereof and in default of conforming themselves thereto, the

^{*} These said estates in the county of Devon amount, in the annual income, to about one hundred pounds a year.

person

person remaining nearest shall be at IIberty to take possession of the faid estate and to enjoy the same as if the person. refusing was dead I do also order that trustees be appointed in fuch place as shall be thought necessary to preserve the contingent remainder, with power to the person in possession or the guardians of the children who shall have a right to the estate when they shall have attained the age of twenty one years to lease the same And I hereby give and bequeath all the furniture plate pictures. china looking glaffes linen, fire arms. carriages waggons household utenfils. garden tools horses horned cattle annuity and all other things belonging to the houses park land gardens baths and appurtenances at Thoresby Holm Pierepoint and all the other houses lately belonging to his Grace the Duke of Kingfton deceased in the county of Nottingham or any other part of England (the county of Middlesex only excepted) unto the faid Sir George Shuckburgh

Sir Richard Heron and George Paine their executors administrators and affions on condition of having them valued and estimated by two indifferent persons of the greatest skill and experience according to their different forts and qualities. and to offer them first to Charles Mea-Esq. if he will dows of make a purchase thereof at the price of the valuation and pay the amount thereof in five equal annual portions but if he refuses to accept of it, it shall then be publicly fold by the faid trustees, their executors administrators and assigns, and the monies arising therefrom shall be received and retained by them; and if the furniture and other things produce the fum of fifteen thousand pounds or more this fum of fifteen thousand pounds shall be paid to Evelin Philip Meadows, Esquire* of Chaillot near Paris and the furplus.

^{*} These are the chattels bequeathed her by his Grace of Kingston, which, as her personal property, will of course, occasion a contest on the part of the next of kin.

The

furplus be advanced by the faid Sir George Shuckburgh Sir Richard Heron and George Payne their executors administrators and assigns on Government fecurity the interest to be paid to the said Evelin Philip Meadows during his life and after his decease the principal shall be divided equally among his children with benefit of furvivorship until twenty one years and the provision for their maintenance shall be taken in the usual manner out of the interests of the faid fecurities but if the faid Evelyn Philip Meadows should not leave any children it shall be paid and applied to the benefit of the children of the faid Charles Meadows, his eldest fon excepted, equally with benefit of furvivorship and the usual administration for the main-

The pretentions of Evelyn Meadows to this bequest, are, to such a character as the Duchess, the best sounded imaginable. He discraced her by a prosecution, which smally exiled her. Like Charles the Second, she provided for enemies, leaving her friends to console themselves with the love of her good qualities.

tenance

tenance of them as ordered with respect to the children of the faid Evelyn Philip Meadows. But if the whole does not produce fifteen thousand pounds then the total shall be paid to the faid Evelyn Philip Meadows and if it should so happen that the faid Evelyn Philip Meadows should die before me, then the faid produce fhall be paid unto and divided amongst his children if more than one with the usual provision for their maintenance as herein before mentioned and if he leaves only one child the faid produce shall be given to such child and if he should die without heirs it shall then be paid to the children of the faid Charles Meadows, his eldeft fon excepted, in the fame manner as to those of the faid Evelyn Philip Meadows. And I also give and bequeath unto faid Charles Meadows all the communion plate which belonged to the chapel of Thorefly and which were taken away with the other vessels and fent by mistake to

St. Petersburgh in Russia*, and my gold defert plate with the case of knives forks and fpoons of gold and four golden falt cellars all engraved with the arms. of Kingston and also one large falt cellar called Queen Elizabeth's falt cellar together with all my other gold and gilt plate whatfoever, either for use or ornament and likewife the following plate viz. one large ciftern with ornaments weighing 3606 ounces two large filver vessels to put wine in with their pedestals and appurtenances one large cover one middle piece weighing 632 oz. dwts. two large tureens with covers weighing 1342 oz. 5dwts. and their

diffies ;

^{*} To strip a chapel of the Communion plate, and pretend that the facramental vessels could be sent from Nottinghamshire to Russia by MISTAKE, is adding a lie to facrilege. If it were possible that the Communion plate were sent to Petersburgh, by mistake, how came it not to be returned when the mistake was discovered? It is shocking to consider to what length the lust of avarice can impel the human mind. A chapel may be robbed, and the impiety of the deed may be termed a mistake.

diffies; two tureens with handles weighing 592 oz. 10 dt .- Two corner tureens weighing together 650 oz. 17 dt. two foup dishes weighing 171 oz: 19 dt. four ice pails weighing together 252 oz. 13 dt. two large cups weighing together 266 oz. 5 dt. two cups weighing 158 oz. 10 dt. fix cups weighing together 278 oz. 8 dt. fix cups weighing together 188 oz. 8 dt. two cups weighing 44 oz. 14 dt. two cups weighing 71 oz. 16 dt. four cups weighing 70 oz. 16 dt. eight cups plain round weighing 234 oz. 6 dt. eight deep round cups weighing 184 oz. four corner cups weighing 76 oz. 4 dt. fix fauce boats weighing 128 oz. 19 dt. five dozen of plain plates weighing 1441 oz. 14 dt. and fix dozen of wrought plates weighing 1437 oz. 13 dt. *-And I alfo

^{*} This specification of valuable articles is assonishing; and still more assonishing is the current language of one, at least, of the Executors, that the Duchess died impoverished. How far a mixture of felf-interest may cause such reports to be propagated, is matter of consideration for the relatives.

give him my nine dozen of Moco handle knives and forks mounted in gold which I bought at Rome and likewife the whole length portrates of the late Duke of Kingston and of the prefent Duchess of Kingston to be put up at Thorefby which as well as all the plates shall be reputed as an heir loom of the faid house; and I also give him the feveral pieces of cannon and the ships and veffel on Thorefby Lake all the copper fountains locks bolts bars bellsand all other furniture in and about the houses gardens stables and houses thereunto belonging to be reputed as appendages of the faid house and I give and bequeath to Mrs. Meadows wife of the faid Charles Meadows all my gold fillagree work plate toilette furniture together with all the ancient enamelled ornaments thereto belonging and all the cabinets and other pieces of japan ware all the gold and gilt plate and japan ware, are now at St. Peterfburg, also my pearl necklace confifting of

of pearls with two drop pearls in the shape of pears strung at the two ends of the necklace and which belonged heretofore to the family of Kingston And I order that all the plate and the pearl necklace hereabove mentioned and given to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Meadows as aforesaid shall be carried and placed at Thoresby and that they shall enjoy the same for ever together with the house as an heir loom.

I give leave and bequeath my house situate at Montmartre or in any other place at or near Paris in the kingdom of France with the gardens and appurtenances unto Messrs. Girardot and Haller bankers at Paris on condition of their selling the same and paying out of the money arising therefrom to the Abbe Fillatrée now at the Prince Cardinal of Rohan's one thousand Louisd'ors unto the said Mr. Haller six hundred Louis-d'ors to purchase a pair of diamond shoe buckles to Madam de Gross at Paris one thousand Louis-d'ors

to Mr. l'Ekouse of Paris five hundred Louis-d'ors to Mr. Becket de Moyceque of Calais fecond fon of the late Prefident Cocove * one thousand Louis d'ors and to pay to my trustees five hundred Louis-d'ors to be placed out at interest and pay the income to Madamoifelle Cafferiere a young lady of Calais - Sifter of the late Mr. Cafferiere of the Customhouse during her life and after her decease to pay the principal to the said Mr. Becket de Moyceque of Calais to purchase an annual rent of one hundred Louis d'ors for ever for the benefit of the two schools at Calais for the education of all the children which shall be brought there for instruction according to the rules of those schools newly established and the rent to be paid one half each to each of the faid schools, the receipts of the fix brothers of the boys fchool and of the fix fifters of the girls

fchool

^{*} The eldest son, who travelled with the Duchess to Rome, Petersburgh, and other places, is commended by her good wishes, to the care of Heaven.

school shall be a sufficient discharge and to employ * a fufficient fum for building a prison for the prisoners of war and those for debt in order to keep them separate from the criminals; and if there should remain any money over and above these disposals they shall employ a fufficient quantity for the building of a water mill in a† convenient place in the town of Calais for the use and benefit of the public (as at certain times when the wind fails the poor are liable to be without bread) which shall grind gratis for the poor on Mondays Wednesdays and Fridays under the inspection and direction of the mayor of the

in in

K.E

This idea of erecting a separate prison for the debtors, was suggested to the Duchess by Major Semple, who stated it to have been his principal sufferance, to have had his feelings arounded, by being liable to mix with rogues.

[†] This jocular mode of converting the Mayor of Calais into a Miller, is altogether so suitable to the genius of the Testator, as not, perhaps, to occur to the mind of any other person in the universe. There is an air of lunacy pervades the whole of the will,

town, and lastly the remainder to be employed by Mr. Haller in brilliants for Mademoifelle Hougherot, none of the diamonds to be under the weight of one carat. I will that all the plate and other effects (the pictures excepted) which are in the house at Paris be fold by my executors the money arifing therefrom to be placed out in government or other good fecurities and the interest thereof to be paid to Mrs. Donisthorne wife of the aforementioned Reverend John Donisthorne during her life and after her death the capital to be divided among her children in fuch manner and at fuch times as she shall direct by deed or testament in default of which disposal on her part it shall be divided among them in equal portions to be paid to them when they shall have respectively attained the twenty first year of their age with the usual power for their maintenance and benefit of furvivorship if any of them die before attaining the age of twenty one years but if she leaves no iffue 3

iffue then to fuch persons and in such manner as she shall direct in the faid deeds or testament And I give leave and bequeath my hotel and the garden adjacent together with the stables dependencies and appurtenances fituate at Calais in the faid kingdom of France to the government of the faid kingdom to be employed to make the refident of the commandant of the faid town of Calais for the time being to be delivered after the furniture and fixtures shall be taken out together with the wines and liquors which are in the cellar * which are to be left for the use of the first commandant who shall reside there I give and bequeath the pictures in the gallery of the faid hotel painted by

K 2

Mignard

This cellar is in excellent condition as to what it contains, for there are about forty thousand bottles of different forts of wine in it. The present commandant, having passed his grand climacteric, is not qualified to enjoy the pleasures of the cellar, but, should it fall to the lot of a bon vivuant, it would prove a most acceptable bequest.

Mignard to the Lord Mayor Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of London begging their acceptance thereof and that they would place them in the Egyptian hall of the Mansion house which the Lord Mayor of the faid City for the time being inhabits *. I give and bequeath the remainder of the pictures and the furniture of the faid hotel (the plate and household linen excepted) unto the faid Sir George Shuckburg Sir Richard Heron and George Payne their executors adminiftrators and affigns to be fold by auction at the beginning of the month of May in the year next after my decease, and to regulate the accounts of Mr. Speake my maitre d'hotel in that town under

^{*} There are fixteen of these pictures, and very valuable they are; but whether they may ever come into the possession of the Corporation of London, is, at present, a little problematical. The relations of the Duchess may think it quite as well to convert them into cash, as to have them ornament the Hall to which the Duchess, in a moment of folly, configned them.

the inspection of Mr. John Williams my maitre d'hotel at the hotel of Kingfton and pay him the balance if any be due to him also to pay to each of my English domestics who shall be in my fervice at the hour of my decease the fum of twenty pounds each to pay the expences of their passage and journey And I order hereby that the rest of the monies arifing from the faid fale shall be equally divided by the faid Sir George Shuckburgh Sir Richard Heron and George Payne their executors adminiftrators and affigns among the children of the fifters of the late Sir John Chudleigh with the usual powers for their maintenance and benefit of furvivorship in case any of them should die before having received the legacies And I hereby order that the plate the filver urn excepted which shall be in my faid hotel at the day of my decease shall be fent to my house at Knightsbridge called Kingston House for the use and behoof of the faid A --- his executors administrators. K 3

ministrators and assigns unto whom I have left the said house And I give and bequeath all the household linen to Madomoiselle Charles Meadows. I give and bequeath to Mr. Fry Dr. of Medicine at Rome who attended me during my abode in that City all my household linen the furniture pictures plate linen china and all the other goods and effects whatfoever belonging to me in the possession and cuftody of the Abbess of the Conof the faid Doctor vent of* Fry and of Mr. Orlanderd Treasurer of the Tefuits her paying two hundred du-- cats to the faid Mr. Orlanderd, or if he should be dead at the day of my decease to his widow if she is alive and I order that a catalogue be made of the I printed music and books in the hands of the faid persons at Rome and that the faid printed music and the books together with a copy of the faid catalogue shall

The property in the custody of this nameless Abbess, added to the other possessions at Rome, are estimated at two thousand pounds value.

be delivered to the Russian Minister then at this place for the use of General Fosfoskie at St. Petersburgh if living, but if he is dead for the use of his son -I give leave and bequeath my land called Chudleigh in the district of Motlic in the Russian empire, together with the house in which I reside and all other houses and buildings thereto belonging and all the forests mines quarries dependencies and appurtenances and all the furniture plate household linen china looking glaffes and other things in and about the faid house stables gardens and outhouses with the horses peasants, an-E nual and perpetual rents and other things belonging to the faid land unto his heirs. and affigns for ever for which he shall pay within twelve months after my decease the fum of thirty thousand roubles to Mr. Muers my apothecary living there in one of my houses, and one tenth of the produce of all the mines whatfoever to fuch person or persons in favor of whom it shall please her Imperial K 4

perial Majesty graciously to dispose of the same to be by them had and received for their own proper use and I order that my four musical slaves * and their wives bought of Mr. Douglas at Revel shall have their liberty six years after my decease and that there shall be paid to each of them thirty six roubles per annum to be paid out of the said land for the services they are to render to the person or persons to whom my land is bequethed and unto their wives the sum of eighteen roubles per annum each.

I give leave and bequeath in like manner the piece of land at Schusselbourg a gracious gift made to me by her Imperial Majesty the Empress of all the Russias situate on the banks of the

^{*} Even in this manumission there is discovered a latent principle of tyranny; for the slaves are to be liberated for fix years, and be afterwards in bondage during the remainder of their lives. As was said of Herod, that "it were better to be his hogs, than his "children," so would the condition of a coal-heaver have been preserable to that of her Grace of King ston's "Musical Performers."

Neva and adjoining to the land of Prince Potemkin unto and his heirs for ever And I give leave and bequeath all the land purchased of General Ismoiloff in the year 1785 called Casterbaback on the road of

Czarsco Zello with the houses gardens
G and dependencies unto

and his heirs for ever. And I give leave and bequeath my large house and other houses gardens and land at St. Petersburg bought of the said General

H Ismoiloff, unto and his heirs for ever I give to the Counters of Gramont my large black enamelled ring set round with brilliants and having a large oval brilliant in the middle and I give to the Counters de Bosse my cornucopia set with brilliants one pair of ear-rings of emeralds round pear fashion, my large emerald ring set round with brilliants and an emerald cross and ribbon attached to it set round with brilliants and likewise all my emeralds. I give and bequeath my two

K 5

fine

fine music lustres at the house at St. Petersburg where I reside my fine organ mounted with engraved glass and precious stones set in gold and, fillagree work with two tables of Oriental alabafter to the Prince of as a fmall testimony of my remembrance and of his attention to me And I give and bequeath all my organs (except the above mentioned) and all my forte pianos and mulical instruments of every kind all my mufic and the books of my library at St. Petersburg together with all my globes telescopes and all other optical inftruments and all my clothes in the faid house trimmed or lined with fur and all other furs made up or not made up in all the houses whatsoever which I have in Ruffia unto

And I give and bequeath all my china and looking-glaffes whatfoever belonging to the faid houses at St.-Petersburg either ornamental or useful (the mirrors belonging to the houses excepted) and all the household linen

linen that shall be found therein to the said Charles Meadows and I give all the carpets of the said house the coachhorses the kitchen and surniture in and about the said house at St. Petersburg unto my executors as making part of my own proper estate I give and bequeath likewise all the remainder of the furniture that shall be found in the said house at St. Petersburg unto the said

the faid house I give and bequeath as an act of justice to the faid Charles Meadows to be reputed an heir-loom of Thoresby the two pictures which are in the possession of the Count de *

through the mifunderstood interpretation of a letter which he received and which he maintains to have been presented to him viz. one of the faid pictures known and attested by Carlo Marriot for an original of Raphael the Holy Family and the other a Claude

K 6 Lorrain

^{*} The Nobleman kere alluded to is Count Chernichoff.

Lorrain It is faid in the faid letter that these two pictures were much esteemed and admired by the late Duke of Kingsston I set a great value on them and I trusted them to his care, the expression in French was " se vous le" consie" (I trust them to you) this circumstance can be attested by Major Moreau at that time my secretary who wrote that letter signed by me, they have been demanded and resused several times and particularly once by my painter Mr. Le Sure who presented the request in writing signed by me

I give and bequeath to
the model of a fleeping figure the original whereof is now at Rome which
was or is thought to have been feen at
the faid Compte de having
been brought from Thorefby in Nottinghamshire by Moiett my gardener, who shipped it on board a ship
which brought him and the figure to St.
Petersburg where he himself delivered it
and where he saw it often and for a long
time

time in the court yard of the faid Count before the house and during many months in the faid Count's garden in a case without a cover, I have kept his attestation thereof copy whereof I annexed to this present act I order my executors and trustees to offer all the pictures of my house at St. Petersburg to her Imperial Majesty if she will accept of them, and pay for them unto my faid executors the fum of one hundred thousand roubles * and if her Majesty does not accept of them my executors shall be bound to offer them to the King of Spain and in case he should not accept of them they shall then cause them to be sent to England to be publicly fold there.

I direct and request the said Sir George Shuckburgh Sir Richard Heron and George Payne to offer and lay at the seet of her Imperial Majesty my pair of pearl ear-rings with my aigrette

^{*} About twenty-five thousand pounds sterling.

containing five red pearls and one large red pearl suspended from an Imperial crown of brilliants only worthy to be offered as the rarest jewel in the known world and the acknowledgment of a heart full of gratitude for the particular friendship with which her Imperial Majesty has always distinguished me

I give and bequeath to his Holiness the Pope a miniature picture representing the Holy Family by Raphael in a gold snuff-box incrusted with pebbles found in Saxony as an acknowledgement of his gracious protection and of the honour and savour he was pleased to shew me by preserving a very considerable property consisting of plate jewels and other things of value which were under his Holiness's care during three years that my persecution lasted which were well preserved and restored to me undamaged and without expences

I give and bequeath unto the British Museum in Montague House Great Russel-street Bloomsbury London my two large pearls fet round with brilliants which are supposed to weigh 47 grains more than those pledged by the Dutch in England in the reign of the House of Stuart which were estimated too high to be purchased and also the snuff-box which appears to be chrystal and which is only Scotch pebble set round with diamonds and served as a case to a watch of Mary Queen of Scotland and was given by her to a friend on the scassfold in her last moments that it may remain among the curiosities in England.

I give and bequeath to the Right Honourable the Countess of Salisbury my
pair of ear rings of white pearls in the
form of pears set with brilliants which
anciently belonged to the Countess of
Salisbury in the time of the reign of
Edward who instituted the Order of the
Garter and purchased by me of Mr.
Matthew Lamb trustee of one of the
House of Salisbury.

I give and bequeath my large diamond ring confifting of one stone weighing twenty-seven grains to the Earl of Hillsborough Baron in England as a small testimony of my acknowledgment for the constant friendship which he shewed me during the time of my troubles and persecutions.

I give and bequeath my large diamond button which I wore in my hat and a diamond loop to be purchased by my executors and worn therewith the diamonds to be of one carat each of the first quality English cut for his Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

I give and bequeath the fellow button to his Grace the Duke of Portland with a fimilar hoop to be purchased.

I give and bequeath to the Right Honourable Lord Viscount Barrington one thousand pounds for a solitaire ring.

I give and bequeath to the Right Honourable Admiral Barrington my frigate with all her fails apparel anchors and other things thereto belonging to be delivered to him after making her voyage from Russia to transport to England such necessary equipage and other things as my executors shall want to transport there and in case the frigate shall be by them demanded for that purpose; but this voyage shall be made within sisteen months after my decease.

I give and bequeath to the Honourable Mr. Daines Barrington of the Inner Temple London my antique cameo ring with the head of Cicero and every thing that may be found in my cabinet of natural history, and fundry loose parcels found in the rivers in different parts of the world and which are in a crystal box to appearance but is a Scotch pebble set with diamonds.

I give and bequeath to the Right Revd. Shute Barrington Bishop of Salisbury*

^{*} As the blanks in this bocus pocus medley, which Mr. Payne, one of the executors, has the kindness to call a will, is not filled up, the Bishop of Salisbury must be content with the good wishes of his departed friend.

I give and bequeath to the faid Sir George Shuckburgh Baronet my diamond shoe buckles.

I give and bequeath to Sir Richard Heron to be held and reputed as an heir-loom to him and his family my large pair of diamond ear-rings brilliants confifting of a fingle ftone each.

I give and bequeath to my coufin Mr. Harry Oxendon who married Miss Peggy Chudleigh the youngest daughter of my uncle Sir George Chudleigh Bart, of the county of Devon to be held and reputed as heir-looms my fet of brilliants and topazes confifting of a necklace one pair of ear-rings one ring one pair of shoe buckles in yellow topazes all fet round with brilliants which (the shoe buckles excepted) were given to me as a prefent by the Electress Dowager of Saxony and a large pearl in form of a pea fet round with brilliants and also a pair of shapes embroidered in brilliants for women's shoes and eight rare diamonds which ferved as trimming for a robe with the four foliages of brilliants dependent thereto to make a pair of buckles and I give him the fum of three hundred and twenty pounds to purchase thirty-two brilliants to make the large side of the buckles.

I give and bequeath to Mr. Chichefter fon of my coufin Mr. John Chichefter and of Mary Chudleigh his wife and one of the daughters of Sir George Chudleigh to become and be reputed as heir-looms the twenty-three diamonds *

I give and bequeath to my cousin Mr. Prideaux who married Miss Mary Chudleigh daughter of Sir George Chudleigh my large diamond breast knot which I usually wore in my hat

which

^{*} Among the number of diamonds which the Duches bequeathed, it will be rather difficult for the executors to affertain which were the twenty-three she intended for Mr. Chichester. Left to the choice of others, they may not be of the sirft water.

which I defire may become and be reputed as an heir-loom. I hereby order my executors to lay out two thousand pounds in the purchase of an annuity for Elizabeth Chudleigh sister of the late Sir John Chudleigh to be paid to her and I give her a legacy of three hundred pounds.

I also give and bequeath to Miss Diana Chudleigh one hundred pounds for a ring.

I give and bequeath to Mrs. Strong my cousin who lives near Wrexham in the county of Wales the sum of five hundred pounds and all my rubies set with brilliants eight brilliant robe buttons my pearl necklace composed of six rows my sapphires and yellow brilliants consisting of one pair of ear-rings two saphires for buttons two small flowers in form of daisses a butterfly a saphire ring set with brilliants and a saphire pear set with brilliants to hang at the neck a solitaire ring yellow diamond a hoop ring all which diamonds and precious

ftones I defire may be looked upon and reputed as heir-looms.

I give and bequeath to my Coufin Miss Elizabeth Chudleigh third daughter of George Chudleigh of the County of Devon the brilliant loops which I usually wore to the sleeves of my gown and a knot of brilliants with which I generally tie my morning gown and my large brilliant ring during their life and after their death I give them to some one of their sisters children to dispose of them.

I give and bequeath to my relation Mrs. Standard formerly Miss Mason the sum of five hundred pounds and also a large filver table engraved with the arms of Chudleigh a large filver coffee pot and a filver tea service in the form of an urn which is at Calais as heir looms.

I give and bequeath to Mr. Jeffery Chalut de Verin Farmer General in France all my pictures which shall be found in or about Paris and the sum of one thousand Louis d'ors to purchase a ring in my remembrance.

I give and bequeath to Mrs. Payne wife of the aforementioned George Payne my gold watch and chain fet with small brilliants and my large usual ring which she will please to wear for my sake and to be given after my decease to the eldest daughter if she pleases.

I give and bequeath to the virtuous and honorable Mr. Komonski of St. Petersburg at the Chancery of Prince Potemkin in consideration of his respectful attachment and of the care he took of me during my voyage from St. Petersburg to France when he was sent with me by her most gracious Imperial Majesty the sum of sifty thousand roubles which legacy I order to be paid to him the year after my decease.

I give and bequeath to Mrs. Ann Hamilton a rent of two hundred pounds per annum during her life to be paid out of my personal estate.

found in or about Faris une the Lan of

I give and bequeath to my old and faithful fervant John Williams the fum of four thousand pounds * and to his wife who has been with me a great number of years the sum of five hun-

* To John Williams, the Duchess has intentionally shewn a grateful esteem for faithful though not the most honourable fervitude. She files him her old and faithful servant: he originally was one of her chairmen, when Miss Chudleigh; and, possessed of a head and heart equal to the schemes of his intriguing mistrefs, in a few years wriggled himfelf into the offices of butler and house-steward .- These situations gave him fome power in her household; being possessed of strong natural abilities, and without education, he was pretty well steeled against all virtuous principles, when in opposition to his Mistress's ambition; in truth, she was well feconded by fuch an agent in most of her plans, however base and dishonourable; nor could any perfon of ability or merit in her household retain her favor longer than it met with his pleasure or humour .--Pretending to methodiffical principles, they ferved as a cloak for the meanest deceptions-Domestics of the revered and good old Duke, who had fpent their best days in his fervice, foon experienced the confequence of his power; and he had the honour to discharge every one who was not fufficiently mean to be fubfervient to his views.

dred pounds and to their fon and daughter the fum of three thousand pounds each and I desire the said Sir John Shuckburgh Sir Richard Heron and George Payne their Executors Administrators and Assigns to employ the sum of one hundred thousand livres in the purchase of an annuity on the heads of Speake and his wife * now my domestics in my house at Calais and on the head of the survivors to be paid to the said Speake and his wife during their lives by moieties the moiety payable to the wife shall be for her separate use and her receipt shall be a sufficient discharge

^{*} The purchasing an annuity on the heads of Speake and his wife, without Christian names, is rather humorous—The husband happens to be of a lower degree than her ordinary carpenter, alluded to in page 134; true it is, he wears a head without genius or common sense—the head of his immaculate spouse, Sarah, poor woman, has often selt the weight of her Mistress's sists; a most docile creature, sometimes in the character of house-keeper, cook, laundry maid or kitchen maid, as it suited the humour of her dear Duchess.—So much for the heads of domestics.

and after the death of either of them the remainder shall be paid to the furvivor during life. I also desire the faid Sir George Schuckburgh Sir Richard Heron and George Payne their Executors Administrators and Assigns to employ the like fum of one hundred thoufand livres on government or good fecurities and to pay the interest or dividend to Anthony Seymour my domestic now living in my house at St. Petersburg during his life and after his death to his wife during her life and after the decease of the survivor to transfer the funds or fecurity in which this fum shall be placed to their child my god-fon Evelyn Seymour when he shall have attained the age of twenty one years. And the interest on dividend shall be applied in the mean time for his maintenance and education but if the faid Evelyn Seymour should happen to die before the age of twenty one years then I give it to the next child of the faid Anthony Seymour and of his wife payable L

able in the fame manner as directed for Evelyn Seymour and fo on in fuccession whilft there is a child of the faid Anthony Seymour and his wife. And I give to the faid Anthony Seymour or to his wife if he shall die before me to be paid in case they or the survivor shall render up my property of Saint Peterfburgh unto my Executors and with their confent the fum of two hundred pounds and I order that their wages shall continue to be paid to them until they shall be discharged by my Excutors And I give to my fervant John Lilly five hundred pounds and I defire the faid Sir George Shuckburgh Sir Richard Heron and George Payne their Executors Administrators and Assigns to employ the fum of one hundred thousand livres to purchase an annuity on the heads of the faid John Lilly and his wife and on that of the furvivor and to pay it to the faid Tohn Lilly during his life and after his death to his wife during her life. I order that this annuity be paid into the hands

hands of the faid John Lilly and his wife folely on their respective receipts to ferve as a discharge and if either of them should fell or affign this annuity it shall then cease and shall be no longer payable to them but shall then lapse and become part of my personal estate. I defire my faid Executors to advance the fum of fix hundred pounds to be employed in the purchase of an annuity for the life of Alexander Berry my coachman and to pay it into his own hands during his life and his fimple receipt shall be a discharge, and if he fells or affigns it this annuity shall cease and lapse to become part of my personal estate And I desire my faid Executors to purchase an annuity of fifty pounds per annum with a part of my estate during the life of Mr. Angel who lives with me as interpreter and to pay it him during his life.

I give and bequeath to Mr. Campbell fon of Campbell Esq of Wales by his deceased wife for-L 2 merly

merly Miss Meadows daughter of Philip Meadows Esq Deputy Ranger of Richmond Park in the County of Surry the fum of five thousand pounds And I give and bequeath to Mrs. Egerton of Salisbury in the County of Wilts widow a rent of fifty pounds per annum and after her death this rent shall be paid to her brother Lindsey, if living and I require and order my Executors to purchase an annuity of fifty pounds per annum for the faid Mrs. Egerton and Mr. Lindsey if they shall be living at the time of my decease and to pay it half yearly to them or him as above but if one of them only shall be alive the same annuity for the life of the party then living shall be paid half yearly to him or her as the case may be And I hereby desire my Executors to call on Mr. Samuel Cox* jeweller of Shoe Lane London and re-

The fum which Mr. Cox owed the Duchess, was two thousand pounds. She affished him with the money in a manner that did her credit.

quire him to pay what he is indebted to me as foon as his circumstances will permit without deranging himfelf leaving it to his known honor and confcience to pay it without being compelled by any fecurity which he may have given me and which may be found in my poffession at my decease, and in case the faid Charles Cox should die before he has paid it I make no doubt but his fon or his reprefentative will honor the faid debt and when it shall be paid I order that it shall be divided in equal fhares among the children of the faid Mrs. Strong. With respect to all the refidue of my estate after payment of my debts funeral expences and legacies and all charges and expences for the execution of my true will I order the faid Sir George Schuckburgh Sir Richard Heron and George Payne their Executors Administrators and Assigns to apply this capital and employ it on good fecurity and to employ the interests or dividends thereof if they amount to a fufficient L 3

fufficient fum on government or good fecurity in fuch manner that it be for the life of the faid Mr. Charles Meadows and General Meadows and at the decease of one of them one half of the interests shall be employed for the widow of the first dying during her life. and at the decease of the other the other half shall be for the widow of the furvivor of the faid Charles Meadows and General Meadows and after the decease of one of the said two widows -One half of the principal shall be paid transferred and affigned over to the faid Mr. Campbell fon of the faid Mr. Campbell and of his wife formerly Miss Meadows and after the decease of the other widow the principal of the other half shall be transferred and affigned over to the faid Mr. Campbell.

And I hereby revoke all wills by me heretofore made and I conflitute the faid Sir George Shuckburgh, Sir Richard Heron and George Payne my testamentary Agents and Executors and give

to each of them one thousand pounds for the trouble they may have. And I order that in case the said George Payne should go from France to Russia to take the possession and direction of my estate that over and above all the charges and expences he may be put to and over and above the faid legacy of one thoufand pounds he shall be paid or shall retain the fum of two thousand pounds for his trouble in making that voyage-In Witness whereof I have figned my name on the first fifteen sheets of paper of the fixteen sheets of which this testament of my will is composed and on the fixteenth sheet I have signed my name and affixed my feal of arms this 26th day of October in the year of our Lord 1786. And syn lo miles

(Signed) E. Kingston Warth.

Signed sealed published and declared by the said Elizabeth Duchess of Kingston Countess of Warth the testatrix in the presence of us whose names are

hereunder

hereunder written and who have all figned our names in witness thereof in her presence and in the presence of each other.

Signed John Gregfon, watchmaker to the King at Paris.

Verbecq jeweller rue St. Honore at Paris.

Arthaud fecretary to the Duchess of Kingston.

3d

Piece CODICIL which I defire may be annexed and looked upon and confidered as making part of my last will and testament and which I make in manner following viz. on a slip of paper annexed with a pin—I give to my Maitre d'Hotel Mr. John Pickin the sum of sive hundred pounds.

E. KINGSTON WARTH.

4th

Piece A

B

C. Chudleigh Haynes fon of the Reverend Mr. Haynes Curate of St. Mary's Mary's Church in the faid town of Nottingham.

D Strong eldest son of the Reverend Mr. Strong and of his wife Ann sister of the late John Chudleigh of Chalmington in the county of Dorset.

E management of the form

F

G

H

I

K Evelyn Philip Meadows
The enamel cross with its string.
Not to forget to fend to Chudleigh at Petersburg the case of China.

On the back is written

Alphabetical Table containing the Letters and the Names to which they refer.

When her Grace (her Highness) wishes to fill up the blanks conformable to the letters, she will then please

please to write the names against the letters which will afterwards serve her to find those she wishes to put in the said blanks.

5th Piece MODEL of CODICIL.

I defire that a codicil may be annexed and taken and regarded and making part of my last will and testament, and I make it in manner following, viz.

I give to John Barnard of Pall Mall London Esq. my diamond ring which I had given by my will to Mr. Alexander Ross, who is since dead.

E. KINGSTON WARTH, this 1st January, 1787.

Paris the pearl ear-rings and necklace which I usually wear.

able to the letters, the will then

olneis :

the 10th May 1787.

I give to Mrs. Johnson of Chudleigh in the county of Devon one thousand pounds.

E. KINGSTON WARTH the 21st August 1787.

I defire to be buried in the following manner, viz. to be embalmed, and if I die in Russia, I most humbly befeech her Imperial Majesty to permit that I may be privately buried in fuch place and in fuch manner as it shall please her Majesty to order, wishing and desiring that it may be in the fame province where she herfelf may will my body to repose, when my heart has been with her this. long time, but if I should die near England I defire that my body be transported without pomp and buried in the Church of Chudleigh, where I will that a handfome monument be made and erected, for which purpose I order my testamentary executors to lay out the fum of five hundred pounds. . I bus O and D.

If

If the plate and the other effects given to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Meadows as heirs shall appear and be delivered entirely I desire Mr. Meadows to pay 100l. to Mr. Superieur, her Grace (her Highness) has a legacy to insert for Mr. Pickin.

ATTESTATION to add to the Codicil in case there should be a gift of land.

This Codicil was figned published and declared by the testatrix her Grace (her Highness) the Duchess of Kingston in presence of us who in her presence and in the presence of each other have signed our names as witnesses attesting the same.

CLAUSE of REVOCATION

A and B having behaved effentially ill to me, I revoke the legacies which I gave them by my will and I give and transfer those legacies (or such as your Grace (your Highness) pleases to grant to C and D.

On the back is written

MODEL of CODICIL.

N. B. The whole of the gifts by codicil ought to be written in her Grace's (her Highness's) own hand and not by any other person and likewise the orders, such as those of her funeral, if it shall be her Grace's intention that they be inserted in the codicil, they ought to be so done with her own hand.

If her Grace (her Highness) shall make a specific legacy, as of a ring. breast-knot or any other of her perfonal effects, or of a sum of money, if it be written with her own hand there is no need of witnesses, if any other person writes the legacy her Grace will sign it and there must be two witnesses.

If she gives any land there must be three witnesses, and the attestation must be couched in the terms of the above model. 6th

200

Letter to Mr. John Chichester Piece.

SIR

IT is now feveral years fince I had the honor to fee you at the time of your voyage to Italy I was in hopes of having that pleasure again as being fo near when you was at Calais Let me have the pleasure of seeing you at Calais if your affairs will permit or at Paris where I now am-Mr. Weriam whom I have feen at Paris has given me the most agreeable news of your health. Is your for alive? and in what part of the world? I should feel a great pleasure in meeting with him to fhew all the regard due to him as your fon. If you determine to do me the honour to come and fee me at Calais, 'tis a long way by land and fhort by fea by making the Streights; if you make the journey by land, I wish you would fend for our cousins the fifters of the late

late John Chudleigh to Chahnington near Dorchester and speak to them there are two of them who live in that county in a fmall retreat, the fecond has inherited a legacy of 20,000l. left her by a relation she lives in tranquillity in that ancient family feat, where she takes a pleasure in educating the children of her deceafed fifter who married Haynes a clergyman to whom I have given benefices amounting to 6 or 700 l. per annum, and who has fince been married to a Miss. Tempest who has had a brother dead lately—This event has caufed a large inheritance to fall to the children of the fecond marriage; added to the defire of feeing you is that of fpeaking with you on family affairs as likewife with Mr. Prideaux, whom I don't know where to feek for.

Sketch of the letter to the Pope *

^{*} A most curious interlineation in a will! It is a pity, that her Grace (her Highness) had not filled up this " Sketch of a letter to his Holiness." Livid

Copy of the Translations made by Hainj Translator and Interpreter in execution of an ordinance of the 26th August last, by us collated on request as set forth in our ordinance of the 5th Sept. inst. and found conformable to the originals of the said translations at Paris in our Hotel this 9th September 1788.

(Signed)

ANGRAND with PARAPHE.

The originals of the faid testament codicils and their covers in the English language after having been unsealed by Mons. Denis Francois Angrand D'Alleray Knight Count de Maillis Lord of Bazoches Condé St. Libiere and other places Lord Patron of Vangizard les Paris King's Counsellors in his Councils. Honorary in his Court of Parliament ancient Attorney General of his Majesty in his great Council Lieutenant Civil

Civil of the City Viscountry and Provoftship of Paris and Counsellor of State in his Hotel, and a copy of the translation which was made thereof by the faid Mr. Hainj King's Interpreter in the Hotel and by virtue of the ordinance of the faid Lieutenant Civil the whole composing feven pieces with the translation of the English papers were committed by the faid Lieutenant Civil to the faid Mr. Rouen one of the King's Counfellors Notary at the Chatalet of Paris here underfigned according to the verbal process of the opening translation and commission of the said testament codicils the letters bearing date the commencement of the 26th of August 1788 the day of the death of the Duchess of Kingston and closed the 9th of this present month of September -The faid teffament codicils and letters comptrolled and examined at Paris by Lezan this 13th of the faid month of September of the faid year 1788 all remaining

maining in the possession of the faid Mr. Rouen, Notary.

Sixteen words erafed as null.

(L.S.) ROUEN.

Sealed the day and year aforefaid

PAULIMUIE.

EXPLANATION of the WILL.

THAT fo incongruous a piece as the one now offered to the public, should ever have been executed in the present form, must appear matter of altonishment to every reader who confidereth, that in France, as in England, there is an established usage, the conformity to which, can alone give validity to a testament. The surprise will cease, on an explanation of the facts.

Two professional English gentlemen were specially commissioned to repair to Paris, for the purpose of taking the instructions of the Duchels of Kingston, relative to the

testamentary disposal of her property. The compliment allowed them was two hundred pounds each. On their arrival at Paris, that which might have been done in one month, was prolonged to three, the bufinefs being occasionally, and by starts, entered into. As far as an English will would operate, the gentlemen were perfectly competent to the task assigned them; but, there was French usage to be considered; for, the Duchess had been denizened as a French woman, by letters patent fo recognizing her. Some affiftance was therefore called in, and that not of the ablest kind. Such, however, as it was, the Duchess accepted it; and, the different directions given her Grace, as to the mode of her devising personal, or landed property, were laid down by the French advisers. That they were ignoble characters, is most evident, from the fulfome strain of compliment to which they have descended. To give a lady, who was merely a Duchess by curtesy, the title of "HIGHNESS," evinced a degrada. tion of spirit, equal to any subservient September A crouching.

crouching. The English assistants supplied. as before fuggested, the outline of a will. conformable to English law. The blanks were left to be filled up, by the Duchess, at a future period; and the feveral initials were fo many helps to her memory. The concluding parts of this will, as it hath been called, are memorandums of fomething to be done, preparatory to the execution of a will in every respect legal; and, that fuch a will was in contemplation, is evident, from Mr. Beardsworth having been employed to attend the return of the Duchefs to Calais, where she was to have executed a regular testament. He did attend, in expectation of her arrival, until he received the advice of her death. Had she lived, a French, a Russian, and an English will, would have been completed. Dying as she did, an Anglo-Franco testament appears, like a common place book, or the repository of reveries, to display her whimficality to the world, under her proper fignature.

ADDITIONS

ADDITIONS

BY ANOTHER HAND,

Communicated to the Publisher since this Edition was sent to Press.

Some months previous to her trial, the Duchefs had felected a very fine library of law books for the convenience of her learned advocates, when they met at Kingston House on consultations, which often occurred; and it hapening at two or three of those meetings, that much time was loft in fearching for books, to find out reports and cases, it was fuggested by one of her council, to have a confidential person retained in her house for that business; the Duchess approved the hint, and wished the gentleman to recommend one in two or three days: he found a fit person, whom he had known fome years; he was introduced to the Duchefs, and engaged, on condition of divefling himfelf of all other concerns, and fixing

fixing his constant residence at Kingston. House; this he agreed to, and his stipend being fettled, he received an affurance from her Grace that the engagement was not to be looked on as a full compensation, faying, " I shall give you great trouble, Sir, and " if I experience your attachment to me "under this horrid perfecution, be the event as it may, you will never have to " feek a friend, for God knows I have a " grateful heart." Tears at the same time flowing with freedom, had the defired effect on the feelings of an entire stranger; the fpell fixed him, and Kingston House was an enchanted castle, where he constantly refided during the whole of that mysterious business; a laborious and difficult employment he experienced, which he executed with cheerfulness and fincerity.

The trial concluded, he received her thanks for his affiduity and attention, with a promise of suture patronage so soon as her affairs were properly arranged, and her mind at ease, and was desired by no means to leave Kingston House. By the Duchess's hasty

halty departure, and by whispers, underflanding she never intended to return, he wished for a settlement: he accordingly applied to her folicitor, Mr. Field, for that purpose; and being informed that her Grace defired his attendance at Calais, he immediately obeyed the fummons, fet off, and on his arrival there, her Grace received him with the greatest civility, under the pretext of forming some plan for his future good fortune; but as the Devil would have it, her fituation was fuch, that till matters were blown over, she could not open a correspondence to request any favor of her numerous and noble friends; she at the fame time mentioned her intention to make an excursion through Germany to Italy; and having experienced his diligent attention under her profecution, she had a wish to retain him about her person, and take him with her as English secretary, and on her return she would be in a better situation, to folicit the interest of her friends in his favor; until this was completed, fo long as fhe retained her eftates he should experience her

mectage

her protection. Such a fresh affortment of flattery, it may be easily conceived, was inducement sufficient to engage his compliance; he acquiesced, and soon after proceeded with her on the journey: in a few days he experienced in her a disposition of temper the most turbulent; her mind unbent, she now appeared without deception, descending to acts of the greatest meanness whenever opportunities prefented to indulge that propenfity. However awkward he now found his fituation, he had proceeded too far to retreat; he had fellow fufferers, and mutual condolence was the only comfort they experienced. She now affumed an inveterate disposition to insult her attendants on account of their being English, forgetting her resources were the produce of England: if a packet of letters arrived, they underwent the ceremony of a temporary quarantine, after being fumigated; this ridiculous ceremony ended, they were permitted to be opened. Her conduct in this journey excited the refentment of foreigners, whereever she went, particularly in Germany, meeting

meeting with public infults. In those instances she appeared in her proper element, despising every idea of shame, glorying to combat difficulties created most wantonly by herfelf, which she determined to furmount at the hazard of fame or pecuniary lofs; and what is most remarkable, by fuch conduct she could rarely return by the road she went, by which means she encountered the greatest dangers and difficulties. Having had her full scope on this excursion, after a long absence, she returned to Paris, staid there some time, and thence went to Calais, the only fpot in which she appeared to be happy, where she was superior to every one as to title and fortune, and might truly be stiled their fovereign; and what agreed with her avaritious disposition, a little money would do great things. The Commandant possessed but a trifling inheritance, which, with an official income as trivial, were together infufficient to support the ideas of French dignity: the knew this, and made him a useful minion; he experienced her bounty, for which he granted her every pri-

privilege she wished: the harbour, and land port gates were opened at her request, a privilege with which no other person, whatever their rank, could be indulged, except a royal messenger. If an Englishman was obnoxious to her, upon her stating to this camblet-coated Commandant, that he was noticing her conduct, he was ordered to depart, on pain of being compelled to quit the town; an instance of this nature happened to a gentleman of character and fortune, now in England; others of less consequence were honored with a file of musqueteers, and forced on board the first ship bound to Dover. Among others, an unfortunate fon of a late celebrated English poet, happening to be in Calais when a paragraph disagreeable to her mightiness, appeared in an English newspaper, zealous to establish her tyranny, she reports to her tool, the Commandant, this man to be the author; the consequence was, a file of musqueteers, headed by a town-major, were fent in quest of him: he was foon found, and immediately hurried to gaol, and

and there confined a close prisoner, where he must have perished, but for the interpolition of his countrymen, who applied to the Commandant for leave to fend him provision; this was granted, with a restriction, that only one person who was nominated should perform this humane office; but whether his visits were too frequent, or from some secret machination of the mighty Duchefs, this person was, by the Commandant's order, taken from his bed by military force at four in the morning, and hurried on board a vessel, which conveyed him to England. As the day advanced, this transaction reached the ears of an English gentleman, then on his travels, who being on particular terms of friendship with the late Duke Fitz-James, then with his regiment at Guines, a few miles from Calais, fent to his Grace an account of this nefarious bufinefs; the Duke's remonstrances induced the Commandant to recal from banishment the object of displeasure, and to liberate the fon of our poet; yet he was permitted no longer to continue at Calais,

M 2

as a body of foldiers efcorted him on board a veffel bound for England, in company with a fervant of the Duches, who had incurred the displeasure of his mistress and the Commandant, on the score of inebriety in their presence, on her natal anniversary, and for which offence he had been previously imprisoned four days.

Her English secretary had been a witness to so many base transactions, both abroad and at home, that he was now fully convinced of her inherent turpitude: he had received fome indecent infults, particularly when the Commandant or her French friends were present: he reasonably became doubtful of her former protestations in his favor, and embraced an opportunity of applying for pecuniary aid, by way of prelude to a fettlement of his account, adding his wish to make his family in England a remittance, who by letter, which he produced, were not in pleafant circumstances. Her answer was, " I will consider of it, my finances are at prefent fcanty." thought it prudent to decline pressing it till

he faw a more favourable opportunity, well knowing the miferly disposition he had to deal with. By the affiftance of a friend he was enabled to make a remittance to his family, which circumstance he was foon after obliged to communicate to the Duchefs, when her wonted diabolical disposition burst forth, by declaring her utmost vengeance against his friend, who fortunately happened to be above her reach; her machination against him failed; she then paid the money. Her fecretary's fituation was now alarming; he folicited a fettlement of his accounts, without effect; expostulations and interpolition of friends were fruitless; she was defired to declare in what instance he had incurred her displeasure. Here justice is due to her memory, her answer was, "I " have experienced the utmost fidelity; he " is a perfectly honest man." This anfwer was fo aftonishing to his friend, that it was thought advisable to wait a little longer her ultimate determination. A fortnight elapsed in filence; a settlement was aerial; fhe had by firatagem obtained poffession of his M 3

his vouchers; it was judged proper to flate his accounts in the best manner; this done, a copy was delivered to her. One meeting appointed, a fecond, third, and fourth followed, and at last the following most shameful answer was sent; "I will have nothing " to do with his accounts; he has been an " expensive burthen to me, and must think " himfelf highly recompenced by travel-" ling with me." No time was now to be lost; he was advised to commence a profecution; a letter to this purport was fent. At this juncture a rupture between England and France unfortunately took place. The French ambassador arrived from England, and Lord Stormont returning from Paris, shewed that her prograftination had been dictated by fubtilty, and that she had played a deep game with her fecretary. He was now without protection at Calais, and not entitled to proceed by law against a French fubject. She was then naturalized, and, by contrivance with her infamous Commandant, fhe caused her faithful secretary to be served by the Town Major with a mandate, whereby

whereby he was commanded to return to England "Par ordre du Gouvernment." This order was figned "Porquet," the Commissary of Marine, another of her minions. The words, By order of Government, were too alarming to be disobeyed in an arbitrary kingdom. He was now pronounced a person dangerous to the country; he was infulted with the threats of a prison, and had no alternative but to feek an afylum in his native country, where he returned completely ruined, with the additional mortification of meeting a diffressed family to share in his misfortunes; nor could he ever after meet with redrefs, her managers in England being too far initiated in the fordid views of their infamous mistress. because

Previous to the trial the Duches had prepared a defence of her own composing, which her council requested to peruse and settle; this she refused; they persisted in their request; her obstinacy very nearly forfeited their support; their intention of declining assistance was held out, and a few days before the trial she reluctantly com-

plied; a confultation was held; her composition was rejected nearly in toto. A new one formed and prefented, she artfully gave it her best commendations: this end accomplished, copies were ordered to be transcribed, for the purpose of finishing which, a number of clerks were engaged all night at Kingston House, who were difcharged early in the morning. The noise of their going down the stair case alarmed Sir F. Molineux, Black-rod, who slept in an adjoining chamber, it having been deemed necessary by the House of Lords, to have her in fafe cuftody. The noise had disturbed his rest: under an apprehension that her Grace had effected an escape, he jumped out of bed, took the black rod with him, and coming on the stair-case, roared out, "Where is the Duchess?" A house-maid, not knowing who he was, ran from him affrighted, and meeting the person who was returned from letting the men out, told him that there was a tall man, a ftranger, on the stair-case in his shirt with a long black thing in his hand, calling for the Duchess like like a madman; and entreated him for God's fake to run up to him; he did fo, and met the baronet habited as described. His fears were foon dispelled; on being told-what occasioned the noise, he was satisfied, and returned immediately to bed.

The copies were collected and given to the Duchess: she presented one to each of her counsel; the accomplishment of this business gave fatisfaction to her friends. The trial commenced; and when called. upon for her defence, she proceeded to read it with the fluency of the most experienced orator; her law friends were ftruck with amazement; in this fituation, they were obliged to be the filent auditors, of her fraud upon them; for fo prone the: was to imposition, however dangerous, that, contrary to all advice, she proceeded on the original defence of her own composition, having suppressed the one which her lawyers had drawn, and which had been approved of on confultation.

The Chancellor's order for the fafe; and close custody of her person had an M_5 appearance.

appearance of feverity; she was on heavy bail, for which reason she would not obey the order, unless they chose to render her person-Sir Francis had served the order. and demanded the custody of her person, to be carried to a place fixed on; this condition she resolutely spurned, treated his commission with defiance and scorn, and infifted that Kingston House should be her refidence: "Here," faid she, "I will re-" main, with permission of my bail." - Sir Francis, well knowing her disposition, declined perfifting, took leave and retired .-In the evening a number of men well armed, confifting of messengers, door-keepers, and others his own domestics, arrived at Kingston house as a guard, where they remained day and night till the trial was finished.

The Chancellor's feverity was attributed to a transaction that had happened between his lordship and a Mrs. Gilbert, as follows:

—A piece of crown land, at Hyde park-corner, had attracted his Lordship's notice, in order to build thereon.—To obtain a grant thereof in his own name, he chose to avoid,

avoid, left it might create animad versions : and habits of particular friendship with Mrs. G- existing, he proposed to present a memorial in her name, which his Lordship would support. The memorial was prefented; and receiving his Lordship's countenance, met with no opposition. The grant obtained was delivered to the lady, whose friendship his Lordship relying on, the necessity of an assignment thereof efcaped his attention; he began and continued building .- This lady being very intimate with the Duchess, to whom the fecret was divulged, her Grace congratulated her; "Keep in with him," faid fhe, "let " him complete it, and then you may take " poffession; it will be your own; it is his. " hobby; he will bleed freely."-The lady enjoyed the hint, and when the house was finished, took possession of it, to his Lordship's great furprise : - he avoided to demur; a few thousands purchased the grant, and possession was given in form.-His Lordship was in years; the lady eafily yielded to the

the final loss of an old acquaintance. The secret in possession of two such notable ladies soon got to his Lordship's knowledge, for which transaction it is inserred he entertained but little seelings for the Duchess's disagreeable situation.

E I N I S.

Las danne der behilden eine den die der

catholicae villas villas interes de care de

what his or burners is not to these setting

